

## Fears of fall in population as birth rate goes down

population of England and Wales may be dropped by about 10,000 in the year ended 1975, the first peacetime reduction since records began in 1837. Preliminary figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show a continuing fall in the birth rate instead of the predicted halt, and net emigration staying at the high 1974 level of 49,000.

## First peacetime drop for 138 years

The last return of the Registrar General for 1974, showed EEC countries becoming a more attractive outlet for emigrants. British nationals have free access to work there, whereas other EEC countries frequently impose restrictions.

Australia was still the most popular destination, with 45,000 emigrants in 1974. New Zealand took 26,000 emigrants and the EEC countries 20,000. The latest projected population for England and Wales in 2011 now stands at 53.5 million, as against today's figure of just below 49.3 million. That figure has been steadily revised downwards during past years.

Although population levels are becoming stagnant in Europe and in developed countries throughout the world, the significance of the British trend is disputed by demographers, in a field where disputes are frequent. Government demographers have been criticized for assuming that the birth rate would soon start an appreciable upward swing. Professor William Brass, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who thinks fertility is dropping, said yesterday: "OPCS clearly cannot persist now in what they have been doing."

## Innapped heir 'died alive'

Our Correspondent  
York, Aug 13  
Kidnappers of Mr Samuel, the 21-year-old heir of the Seagraves family, who was held for £2.14m ransom and had his family that their "buried" with only 10 supply of water.

## Climber aged 67 rescued from Eiger summit

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Aug 13  
Professor Jean Juge, the president of the International Union of Alpine Associations, who is 67, was today picked up by a helicopter of the Swiss Air Rescue Guard from near the Eiger summit (13,025ft).

## Sit of PLO observers to go ahead

Jeffrey Browning  
Secretary Staff  
visit of four observers to the Palestine Liberation Organisation to next month's session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in London is to go ahead, Home Secretary, Mr Jenkins, has announced. He said that there are no grounds for refusing entry to Mr Mo'azzam, MP for Barking, who is on Monday, Mr Jenkins said that the decision was made by the Home Office, and that the Government had no real concern in this matter. The Secretary is to decide on foreign citizens who to enter this country.



An aerial view of the forest fire, which now covers about 12,000 acres, near Githorn, West Germany.

## BAOR joins battle against fire

From Dan van der Vat  
Bonn, Aug 13

A fire which has been raging across north-west Germany since Friday began eating its way towards the East German border today. Fanned by a brisk wind the fire, West Germany's worst post-war environmental disaster, forced the evacuation of 2,000 people from eight villages in an area east of Celle in Lower Saxony during the night.

Today British soldiers joined the fight against the conflagration. Many units of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) are stationed near the fire in the

Lüneburg Heath area and the BAOR commander, General Sir Harry Tuzo, sent officers to the fire control centre in Oldenburg to offer the West Germans all possible help.

Army heavy lifting gear has already been lent to the German authorities, and West German fire engines are being allowed to refuel at British dumps. North of Soest, Royal Engineers helped to cut a fire-break and bring one of the smaller fires under control while a hastily assembled convoy of British Army vehicles evacuated the entire contents of a storage depot, including large quantities of ammunition, during the night. The flames came to the edge of the depot area at Scheuen, near Celle, and then receded.

Tonight a British Army spokesman said 250 beds in a barracks at Hohna, near Celle, were being used to enable West

German firemen to take a rest. The Army also sent five armoured bulldozers to help in making firebreaks.

It is now estimated that over 12,000 acres of heath have been destroyed by the fire.

In fact, several fires, probably separately caused, are burning in the area, including four big outbreaks. But the one causing the most concern is that near Eschede.

This is now estimated to cover an area of 20 square miles and has so far resisted efforts by 11,000 firemen, five of whom have been killed, and volunteers to bring it under control. The area consists of forest and heath.

Army tanks were mobilized for this task. Another fire, thought to cover 15 square miles, is burning near Githorn, on open moorland only a few miles from the Elbe river and the East German border. Today the West German authorities warned the East Germans that the fire might cross into their territory unless the wind changed or there was heavy rain.

A photograph picked up by the space research centre at Bochum, from a Soviet environmental research satellite, showed a cloud of smoke and ash covering 100 square miles.

Meanwhile, the chaos caused by the fire continues. Trains are being diverted, and two main roads have had to be closed. Processions of fire engines from all over the country were seen racing along the motorways heading for the disaster area.

## Portuguese security force puts forward its own solution

From Michael Knipe  
Lisbon, Aug 13

Copcon, the Army command which controls internal security, today put forward its own programme for the country's future. It did so amid further signs that the armed forces were swinging behind the nine officers who were suspended from the Supreme Revolutionary Council last week after publishing a manifesto calling for a slowing down of the revolutionary process.

Left-wing newspapers said tonight that Copcon's statement contained ideas that would be to the liking of the revolutionary left. A meeting of about 100 operational commanders from all parts of the country was today discussing the document under the chairmanship of General Orelto Saravia de Carvalho.

The document rejects Soviet-style communism and advocates worker control. It also admits that the Armed Forces' movement has been "highly responsible" for Portugal's present political and economic crisis. The manifesto calls, however, would allow the country's right wing to regain control, it says. It claims to be "the only

viable, realistic proposal that can be offered to the people for a socialist society that will be a total denial of fascist, social democracy, and state capitalism." The latter term refers to Soviet-style communism.

The Copcon document appears to advocate the rechartering of Portugal's revolutionary course on Cuban or Chinese lines, claiming to offer more power to the people at grass roots level.

It opposes the strengthening of ties with the European Economic Community, and calls for the cutting off of foreign investment which, it claims, has been exploiting cheap labour. Criticizing the moderates' manifesto for ignoring what it describes as the fundamental fact of the emergence of fascism, the document says that fascism has come out from the shadows and gone on to the attack by violent action. It has been proved historically, the document says, that moderates who tried to take a conciliatory stand towards fascist actions were the first to suffer from them, or else they became the oppressors of the masses they claimed to be freeing.

The document calls for the restructuring of the political system on the basis of village, factory and borough councils. Copcon also announced that it had arrested 10 counter-revolutionaries, all apparently former members of the fascist youth movement.

Meanwhile, the nine moderate officers continued to defend their action in publishing their manifesto. Admiral Vitor Crespo, the former High Commissioner in Mozambique, said that with Portugal in such a critical condition, a political alternative had to be proposed to prevent any right-wing flag-wavers from seizing the support the revolutionary regime no longer enjoyed.

The Government last night issued a decree nationalizing the remaining parts of the country's biggest independent conglomerate, Companhia Uniao Fabril. The present management structure is to be replaced by an administrative committee consisting of what the Cabinet described as "seven competent people". Details of compensation for the shareholders are to be issued within 180 days of the nationalization becoming effective.

## Proposals to stiffen consumers' Act

By Diana Geddes

Proposals for important changes in the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968, including making estate agents criminally liable for issuing false statements about property they sell, were put forward by an inter-departmental committee yesterday.

Launching the proposals, contained in a consultative document, Mr John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, who was chairman of the committee, said at a press conference in London yesterday that the committee felt that the Act had worked well. The committee comprised representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry (as it was when the committee was set up years ago), the Home Office, the Lord Chancellor's Office and the Office of Fair Trading.

The Act had done what it had set out to do: to encourage high standards of truthfulness in describing goods and services. Some of the criticisms levelled against the Act were wrong, it was never intended to be a panacea for all consumer ills. Nevertheless, the committee believed it desirable to extend the scope of the Act and to remedy some of its weaknesses.

Under the Act the term "goods" does not cover houses for sale or for rent on long lease. Short-term accommodation is covered under the description "services". The committee says it sees "no reason why the deterrent effect of the Act should not be used to save the prospective buyer (or property) the unnecessary waste of his time and money in viewing and perhaps arranging for surveys of property which, if it had not been misdescribed, would not have been viewed."

It proposes that an offence should be created, making those who utter false statements about any type of property, including agricultural and building land and commercial property, liable to criminal prosecution.

Continued on page 2, col 4

## Sale of foreign cars in Britain sets record

By Our Business News Staff

Sales of foreign cars in the United Kingdom during the first 12 days of the month reached 38,000, a record 41.5 per cent of the market, but there are signs that the importation may slip back to more normal levels by the end of the month.

The large increase reflects the pent-up demand from private motorists who had delayed buying until the "P" registration was introduced on August 1. Fleet sales, a sector dominated by the big four British manufacturers, would not have been similarly affected.

The Japanese Datsun held the leading position among importers, taking 7.3 per cent of the total market, more than

Chrysler or Vauxhall. Volkswagens took second place in the importers' table, followed by Renault and Fiat.

Total sales, assessed from manufacturers' returns and normally published only on a monthly basis, were 91,500 for the 12-day period compared with a total of 57,378 in July, traditionally a poor sales month.

British Leyland's market share so far this month is down to 27.5 per cent but the company is confident that the monthly total will reflect the success of its new "superdeal" campaign. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders yesterday issued a caution against taking the 12-day figure in isolation. Percentage sales varied almost daily, a spokesman said.

Business News, page 19

## Navy sends learner ships Europe tour

London, Aug 13.—The States is sending a learner task group, including a new and biggest to Europe next week in a demonstration of naval carrier Nimitz, commissioning in May, is the centre of the group which will include the Virginia, the 19, Virginia, England, Germany and Norway. The carrier will be accompanied by the new cruiser, Carolina, and the submarine Seahorse. Defence Department said it was not being made of any existing or developing development, a senior official called it "a physical reassurance to our NATO allies." The trip will include visits in the North Atlantic, the North Star.

## Firemen end dispute after agreeing to £6 rise

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Staff

The Fire Brigades Union last night called off its industrial action and settled for £6 a week from November. It will await the outcome of the Home Office inquiry into the possibility of reducing working hours from 48 to 40 a week.

The two sides met for several hours at County Hall, London, Mr Terence Parry, general secretary of the union, said: "In the circumstances we feel this was the best agreement we could get. It is not what we set out for but we believe our

members will understand the circumstances."

It is expected that by Monday fire services throughout the country will be back to normal, including London, which has been worst affected. Mr Brian Rusbridge, the employers' negotiator, said: "We do not want recriminations. We are pleased that we can get back to the normal good working relationships in the fire service."

The agreement also provided for a review of payments for wider duties carried out by firemen as a result of new technology. The payments were last agreed in November, 1973. Any new agreement will not take account of cost-of-living pay increases, but will be paid when the Government's pay policy and the financial limitations on the local government allow. It is unlikely that the union will cooperate with the inquiry into the 40-hour week.

## Negotiations on Olympic TV collapse

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Aug 13

Unless the organizing committee of next year's Olympic Games in Montreal changes its mind, it looks as though direct full television coverage of the games will be confined to North America and the Philippines.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) here said today that negotiations "have finally broken down". This followed a visit to Montreal at the beginning of this month by Sir Charles Curran, in his capacity as president of the EBU, and officials from other broadcasting organizations.

The EBU announcement said their joint offer had been £9.3m (about £4.4m) but the Montreal committee was holding out for \$18m. "The gap was clearly unbridgeable," it added.

## Peace formula agreed over 'Observer' redundancies

A peace formula was agreed last night between the management of The Observer and officials of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades over the redundancies dispute. Details will be given to the union chapel (office branch) next week with a recommendation from chapel officers to accept.

It is understood that The Observer has agreed to reduce its requirement for a 30 per cent reduction in jobs. How big the cut was not disclosed. After a four-hour meeting with management, under the umbrella of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Mr William Keys, the Sogat general secretary, said: "So far as Sogat is concerned there can be a paper this week-end and we are hoping there will be one."

Agreement with the union was regarded as the key to the dispute as Sogat had voiced the strongest opposition to The Observer's proposals. The decision on Tuesday to withdraw 200 redundancy notices means that all Sogat members can be back at work before their meeting next week. Talks between the management and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsopa) also took place on Tuesday but no agreement was issued. Officials of the National Graphical Association are due to meet the management again today.

Cuts rejected: The London Evening News editorial chapel (office branch) passed a resolution last night rejecting the management's plans for 12 journalistic redundancies. A chapel spokesman said: "We were told that there would be 400 redundancies overall, including 12 in the editorial department. The management said £1,250,000 has to be saved in less than a year."

## High-alumina cement homes get good news

Most homes containing high-alumina cement are structurally safe and need not be checked, the Government said yesterday after receiving a report on the material. Buildings of more than four storeys

and certain single-storey buildings, particularly schools, using the material have not been cleared, however, and the Government says they should be inspected by a qualified engineer. Page 2

## Rhodesia expects tough talks

Mr Ian Smith told Parliament in Salisbury that the opening at Victoria Falls of the proposed constitutional conference to settle the future of Rhodesia would be a formal affair last

ing perhaps half an hour. Tough negotiations are expected to take place in a committee stage afterwards, to be held inside Rhodesia. Page 4

## Accord nearer in Middle East

Dr Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, is preparing to leave for the Middle East next week in a final attempt to bring about a settlement between Israel and Egypt. Yesterday Egypt was optimistic that an accord could be achieved. Page 4

## Campaign to buy British

The Government is considering the possibility of starting an official advertising campaign to encourage industry and the public to buy British-made goods. This follows the crusade by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary for Trade, for greater import substitution. Page 19

## 'Gross perjury'

Continuing his summing-up in the Birmingham bomb trial, Mr Justice Bridge spoke of gross perjury by one side or the other. Some allegations of police brutality recalled Star Chamber methods. Page 3

Import controls: The TUC is to urge the rapid introduction of selective import controls, rather than deflation, to combat unemployment. Page 3

## Threat to pubs

Six hundred public houses in the Midlands and 70 in south Wales are likely to be affected by a strike called by the National Association of Licensed House Managers because of a dispute with the Transport and General Workers' Union. Emergency talks are to take place today. Page 19

Torture trial: Witnesses at Athens hearing call the junta's special interrogation section of the military police "this contemporary Greek Dachau". Page 5

## £2.5m refused

The London borough of Bromley has refused to take up a £2.5m allocation for schools and colleges because of the cost of loan charges. Its education committee wants the Government to intervene. Page 2

Airways chairman: Sir Frank McFadden, chairman of British Airways, is to take over from Sir David Nicolson on January 1 as chairman of British Airways, at a salary of £23,000. Page 19

## On other pages

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Business News, pages 18-24  
Stock markets: Equities advanced again under the impetus of Umler's half-year results. The FT index closed 4.6 up to 294.6. Glutted securities were quiet but firm  
Financial Editor: Unilever moving into the recovery phase: General Accident's performance in the United States; Carrington Villa Business features: Peter Readman concludes his two-part article with institutions should provide long-term risk capital; Sue Bradford sees Argentina running out of time, money and options

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## Council spurns £2.5m education allocation

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 Manufacturer's estimate, October 1974, of group as defined in H.M. Government Tables  
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## WEST EUROPE

# French Socialists' leader insists that the Communists must admit their mistakes in Portugal

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, Aug 13

M. Francois Mitterrand, leader of the French Socialists, today stayed away from talks between his own party and the Communists, aimed at working out a joint position on the situation in Portugal.

In a letter written after consulting Dr. Mario Soares, the Portuguese Socialist leader, he told the Communists they must accept that "errors of judgment by the Portuguese Communist Party leadership have contributed in large measure to the course of events which we now deplore".

The letter was delivered by Mitterrand's lieutenants when they joined Communist representatives at the meeting which went on most of the day. It was proposed hurriedly by M. Georges Marchais, secretary-general of the Communist Party, to help his Portuguese colleagues after violent incidents in northern Portugal.

Mitterrand today seized the initiative, exploiting the Communists' growing isolation from the man in the street in France. He stated that his party's price for joining the Communists' appeal for a public campaign to aid Portugal was agreement on some "clear principles", the

first of which must be support for a government of unity in Lisbon.

He said he was well aware that his party's analysis of the Portuguese situation differed from the Communists'. The errors committed by Portugal's Communists, however, "must be understood, without any self-complicity, if one wants to prepare the ground for the re-conciliation, now necessary, if the Portuguese revolution is to continue".

Mitterrand, who is staying pointedly at his holiday home in south-west France, listed the Portuguese Communists' chief blunders, including the refusal to sign a common programme with the Socialists; the taking over of local authorities "with the exorbitant pretension to run them without any popular mandate"; the unconditional backing of an executive which represented only a minority; and "disdain" for universal suffrage.

On all these points, the French Socialist Party wants to make clear its total disagreement," he wrote in his letter. He condemned the anti-Communist "witch-hunt" in northern Portugal, but added that all the forces that had brought about the revolution needed to

"take greater account of the risks sectarianism and power hunger provoked inevitably."

At the end of today's meeting, the Socialists, Communists and Radicals, the third signatories of the left's electoral alliance, said in a joint statement that it was up to all the forces that had made Portugal's revolution to "stop any return now of fascism".

The three agreed on the formula that Portugal's Government "must be based on the largest possible popular will, expressed democratically". The formula made it clear that neither the Communists nor the Socialists had budged in the talks.

The French Socialists are obviously anxious not to do anything to upset Dr. Soares's strategy by embracing the French Communists. Dr. Soares, speaking on Monte Carlo radio last night, emphasized that Portugal's Communists were still refusing to make genuine overtures to his party.

Mitterrand, however, emphasized the importance of a common programme. He reaffirmed the existing basic structure with the French Communist Party, in spite of ideological arguments. Leading article, page 15



Struck by lightning: The Sansovino statue of Christ, standing above the east door of the Baptistery in Florence, whose right arm was broken off during a thunderstorm on Tuesday night. The sixteenth-century masterpiece will be difficult to repair as tourists have stolen some broken-off pieces.

## 4,000 Angola whites reach safety in S-W Africa

Oshakati, South-West Africa, Aug 13—Some 4,000 white refugees from Angola arrived here during the night in a convoy of about 700 vehicles. Another convoy of some 1,300 refugees is believed to be on the way, and the South African authorities are flying in emergency food, tents and welfare officials to cope.

Mr H. J. van Vuren, the district welfare secretary, said that an existing refugee camp south of Oshakati would be enlarged as would a camp near Pretoria, in South Africa.

Refugees who arrived here said they had been escorted by Portuguese troops and soldiers of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, who had opened a "corridor" for them to the southern border from south of the town Sa da Bandeira.

There were isolated reports of clashes on the trip between Movement men and troops of two rival groups, the National Union for total independence of Angola (Unita) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola.

Conditions in refugee camps in southern Angola are becoming desperate, according to the refugees. At the town of Nova Lisboa 30,000 people are waiting to leave the country and the shortage of food, water and fuel is becoming daily more acute.

—Agence France Presse.

Kinshasa: Mr Luis Ranque Franck, president of the Front for the Liberation of Cabinda, who claimed independence for the enclave on August 1, has named a 17-member Government, according to the Zaire news agency Azap.

Darwin: Mr Jose Ramos Horta, leader of the Fretilin political movement on Portuguese Timor, said here today that the island was moving towards bloodshed. He said the demand by the rival Timor Democratic Union for immediate independence for the colony and the jailing of all Fretilin leaders was a "desperate action" which would lead to inevitable confrontation.

## Prelate accused of aiming at civil war

Rome, Aug 13—The Italian Communist Party newspaper, L'Unita, today launched a virulent attack on the Archbishop of Braga, Don Francisco Maria da Silva, accusing him of "pushing Portugal towards the abyss of civil war".

In a leading article L'Unita said: "The call for an anti-Communist crusade launched by Archbishop da Silva, who called the Communists 'enemies of God' and thus incited the attack on, and burning of, the Portuguese Communist Party's headquarters in Braga, is very serious and inadmissible."

"He was a member of the old ecclesiastical hierarchy which until a few years ago exalted the fascist Salazar regime, blessed the banners of troops going to fight the colonial wars, and censured and deformed encyclicals."

"And he is the same man who wrote the funeral eulogy for the dictator Salazar." The Archbishop, who is 65, had been forced to strip before customs officials while on his way to an ecclesiastical congress in Brazil last month.—Reuter.

## Spanish police claim arrest of gun battle fugitive

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Aug 13

The Spanish police today arrested a suspected Basque activist who, they said, escaped after a gun battle yesterday in the village of Derio, near Bilbao. The man, Angel Maria Arreola, is said to have taken part in an attempt to blow up a road outside Bilbao last week. Four other suspects are being sought.

A Barcelona journalist arrested last month on charges of "insulting the military" in an article he wrote for a local newspaper has been put into solitary confinement in the same cell as Ignacio Perez Beotegui, alias Wilson, an alleged member of ETA, the Basque nationalist organization, who was captured recently and has been accused of involvement in the assassination of Admiral Carrero Blanco.

Señor José María Huertas Clavería has been accused of collaborating with Wilson. Yesterday journalists on the papers, Tele Express, Mundo Diario and Diario de Barcelona, held stoppages for half an hour

in sympathy with him. Information obtained after Wilson was arrested is believed to have led to the arrest of several alleged activists. Informed sources say that Wilson was wounded in the upper right part of the head by a shot at the time of his capture.

Several of the priests who have been in solitary confinement in Madrid are expected to be released this week. A priest was arrested in Orense yesterday afternoon. His arrest is believed to be connected with the distribution of leaflets protesting at the detention of a neighbour.

The Falangist daily Arriba claimed today that Japanese terrorists had crossed into Spain from France, possibly to stage a spectacular plot to free convicted dissidents.

According to Arriba, nine men and four women terrorists may be plotting the kind of operation they carried out in Kuala Lumpur. The police said, however, that they had no knowledge of such a plot. Brief fame of a terrorist, page 14

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## OVERSEAS

## Victoria Falls opening meeting expected to last half an hour

From Frederick Cleary  
Salisbury, Aug 13

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, told Parliament today that the opening session of the constitutional conference, on the railway bridge at the Victoria Falls, would be little more than a signing ceremony lasting

half an hour. After this formal meeting, negotiations would take place in the Rhodesia Hotel in line with his previous statements, that they could not be held elsewhere.

Mr Smith was asked by a Government backbencher, how long the conference would last. He replied: "In the discussion which took place last week in Pretoria, this question was brought up, and it was generally conceded that it was difficult to envisage this taking more than half an hour in view of the fact that it was little more than a signing ceremony of an agreement that we should settle our constitutional difficulties by talking."

Mr Smith was asked whether he would declare a general amnesty so that the rank and file of the African National Council (ANC) and its leaders could get together. He replied that the question was not raised in the discussion.

Mr Smith said that group appeared to be divided, with the body resident in Rhodesia and the head in Zambia. He hoped that in the immediate future the ANC would get together in order to get some cohesion.

An official date for the conference has not been announced, but sources close to the Admin-

istration indicate that it could be between August 21 and 25, and certainly not later than August 25, as indicated in the official statement on Tuesday.

The overall plan of the conference now appears to be for the initial brief, constitutional meeting attended by Mr Smith, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and his ANC team on the one hand, and the respective objectives and then after the public signing of such documents in the railway coach, the respective committees or committees would be appointed to go into the heart of the matter.

It is estimated that the committee would not meet publicly for two months after the signing of the agreement, assuming that the exercise does not get bogged down or break up in disagreement. The final ratification conference, involving the British and possibly other governments, would be held at a venue yet to be decided.

Rumour that Mr Isaac Maseko, the brilliant Johannesburg lawyer who defended the Rhodesian soldiers in his detention trial in Salisbury earlier this year, has been approached to act as legal adviser was not confirmed today.

It is known that Mr Maseko has been contacted recently by the ANC. A report appearing in the Rhodesia Herald today asserting that guerrilla incidents involving the ANC as part of the pre-conference agreement were denied today by ANC officials. They said that it had been agreed that there would be no preconditions before the talks began.

The Rhodesia Herald report said that the ceasefire had been accepted by the participants, and that the black African presidents would see that it was enforced.

Mr Maseko was never asked the question of whether he was being offered a job. His family was later informed by the institute that he had died in the course of the treatment he had received.

It is the first known fatality of the extensive programme of experiments which the Army conducted in the 1950s to determine "the clinical effects of psychochemical agents on the behaviour of subjects".

## Nixon archives subject to legal battle

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Aug 13

The special Senate committee on the Central Intelligence Agency heard its last witness yesterday, and adjourned for the next few weeks. Its last act was to subpoena papers and tapes from Mr Richard Nixon's collection which might throw light on American involvement in the coup in Chile in 1973.

The problem with the Nixon archives is that their ownership is the subject of a court suit brought by the former President against the Government. Congress passed a law, which Mr Ford signed, taking tapes and papers alike into public ownership, and Mr Nixon's lawyers, citing precedents going back to George Washington, claim that the law is unconstitutional.

President Ford, who still holds the Nixon papers through the General Services Administration, cannot hand them over to the Senate until the case is resolved. Mr Nixon wins, of course. Senator Church would have to subpoena him.

With relations between Kenya and Tanzania difficult for many months, 300 Tanzanians arrived this week in Tanga and said they had been ordered to leave their homes and jobs in the Kenya port of Mombasa.

No precise explanation of their expulsion has been given, but it is believed that they were being expelled on grounds of security. A law was introduced last year requiring all non-Kenyans (including nationals of the other states of the East African Community) to register with the authorities.

This kind of uncertainty fostered by a lack of information on the real reasons for such incidents, makes other Tanzanians and Ugandans apprehensive, and helps to undermine the already low morale among many of the staff of the East African Community organizations.

In another incident this week a group of senior East African Community officials, who were about to return to Tanzania, were told they were illegally in Kenya and were detained at Mombasa. They were allowed to go after being held for some 90 minutes. But the "widely publicized" affair provides a stark picture of the restoration of confidence.

However, there are some encouraging signs. A formula recently agreed between the three East African central banks seems to have solved, at least for the present, the problems of lack of cash caused by delays in currency transfers between the offices of different Community bodies, particularly the railways, post office and airways, in the three countries.

According to the latest reports, these currency transactions are being carried out promptly, and if so, there should be no repetition of past delays in paying the salaries of Community staff.

The Kenyan authorities confirmed today that more than 600 people were rounded up in a weekend check on aliens in different parts of the country. As a result, 39 had been declared prohibited immigrants, and ordered to leave Kenya. Most of it is understood did not have valid entry permits.

Meanwhile, the United States Embassy in Nairobi protested to the Kenyan Foreign Minister over the way some Americans were handled during the checks. Earlier representations had been made to the ministry by the British and German representatives in Nairobi.

## Internal wrangles threaten East African Community

From Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Aug 13

Strains in the relations between the three members of the East African Community—Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda—have increased greatly in the past few weeks, and there is general speculation about the prospect for an end to the union.

Tanzania repeated its long-standing opposition to the Ugandan military regime by refusing to attend the Organization of African Unity summit meeting in Kampala two weeks ago. It also refused to accept the Tanzanian Foreign Minister, who has been campaigning against President Nyerere from exile for the last eight years, was invited to the summit by President Amin.

With relations between Kenya and Tanzania difficult for many months, 300 Tanzanians arrived this week in Tanga and said they had been ordered to leave their homes and jobs in the Kenya port of Mombasa.

No precise explanation of their expulsion has been given, but it is believed that they were being expelled on grounds of security. A law was introduced last year requiring all non-Kenyans (including nationals of the other states of the East African Community) to register with the authorities.

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## Argentine envoy to EEC may join government

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Aug 13

The sudden return to Buenos Aires of Signor Antonio Cafiero, the Argentine ambassador to the EEC, a mere six weeks after his appointment, raised speculation today that he was to take up the post of Economic Minister in a new Government.

Officials in Brussels said that Signor Cafiero had been recalled for consultations in the Argentine capital, but were unable to confirm a news agency report that he would join the new Cabinet formed by President Isabel Menem.

Signor Cafiero is well qualified for such a post. He has a doctorate in economics and was one of the country's youngest economics affairs counsellors at the Argentine embassy in Washington before serving five years as Minister.

Argentina running out of time, page 21

## Boston youths injure nine

From Our Correspondent  
New York, Aug 13

Nine people were injured when several hundred youths attacked motorists passing through two public housing estates in Boston yesterday.

A doctor, who was pulled from his vehicle near Boston City Hospital and beaten up, was reported to be on the danger list with multiple injuries. Most of the participants were black teenagers.

## Jasmine pickers turn sour over conditions

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Aug 13

The women jasmine pickers of Calabria, whose work is far less sweet than their harvest would suggest, are angry. Last week, they refused to go into the fields as part of their campaign for better working conditions.

They want a fixed guaranteed daily wage as well as payment by weight of pickings. They want proper sanitary arrangements, including showers, and are demanding nursery schools in their own villages to care for their children when they are away at work.

About 5,000 women and girls take on this seasonal work. They earn 820 lire (about 60p) for a kilogramme of jasmine and the average daily harvest per woman is four kilogrammes.

## Israel ready to give ground

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Aug 13

The scene is set for Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, to return to shuttle diplomacy next week.

He is said to be thinking of leaving Washington on Tuesday or Wednesday and to be ready to return to shuttle diplomacy next week. He is said to be thinking of leaving Washington on Tuesday or Wednesday and to be ready to return to shuttle diplomacy next week.

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The latest episode in the war of words between the two erstwhile allies erupted as evidence mounts that a new disengagement agreement between Egypt and Israel may be imminent.

Defending his peace policy, President Sadat declared that he was a "new" United States first encouraged Egypt to turn to the United States for diplomatic support after the 1973 Middle East War.

"The Russians may be behind this," Mr Sadat said. "But they know the facts as well as I do. They told Nasser to speak to the Americans and the yield me the same."

"The President said he had arranged the original disengagement accord in Sinai with Dr Kissinger after the war."

"From the Russian point of view that was tantamount to high treason," he said. "Since then the Soviet stand has not changed."

He added that although Russia had wanted him to obtain its blessing before he signed that agreement, he had flatly refused.

The President outlined his firm stand in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper Al-Hawadess which has become his forum for important announcements to the Arab public.

In an obvious attempt to discredit Mr Sadat, Russia has made it known in the Arab press that it will "discourage" any partial agreement like the one being proposed by the United States at the moment.



## VERSEAS

## Witness calls junta's interrogation 'Greek Dachau'

in Mario Modiano

Professor Demetrios Tsatsos, member of Parliament, gave evidence at the Athens trial today, compared EAT-ESA, the junta's special intervention section of the military, to a Nazi concentration camp. He said: "During four months in 1973 I was an inmate of this contemporary Greek 'Dachau'."

Professor Tsatsos, who, at the time he was arrested, was a law lecturer in German universities, said he was arrested after he had written a letter, which had been intercepted, relating details of the tortures inflicted at EAT-ESA. In his letter he was urging contacts to give maximum publicity to these disclosures.

He had been brought before the court before the trial of the 128 defendants accused of the coup of July 1974. He had been held in a cell, without sleep, food or water, being denied the use of a toilet. His statement that he had had political and suffered from a heart ailment, left his interrogators unimpressed.

Blows, punches, insults, and humiliations were only the constant parts of a system of degradation employed at EAT-ESA.

Because of the interest shown by his German friends, Professor Tsatsos went on, he had been treated less harshly than other prisoners. He had been seen through a crack in the door of his cell a friend who was beaten with a club, had heard the moans of his neighbours in cells, and had seen the faces of the defendants crowded to provoke witnesses.

or Nikolaos Hatzizisis, one of the defendants, was as soon as he went ashore in Basra on July 29.

The master of the ship Kirin, 9,400 tons, reported that Mr Cohen had been asked for a passport officer in the port to follow him and had since vanished. This officer said later that Mr Cohen had been taken to the police.

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## Mrs Gandhi accuses the Western press

Delhi, Aug 13—Mrs Gandhi,

the Prime Minister, has accused the Western press and other foreign mass media of spreading "most slanderous and malicious" reports against India.

In an interview with her ruling Congress Party's official weekly, *Socialist India*, Mrs Gandhi said she was "amused by the sudden love for democracy finding expression in the West and among much of our intelligentsia which is Western oriented."

"Have they forgotten how we were treated long before the emergency? I have warned of foreign interference. Our doubts and fears are confirmed by the behaviour of important sections of the Western press, television and radio. The most slanderous and malicious news stories are appearing."

She made a specific charge against the BBC of broadcasting one-sided and incorrect information.

On the internal situation, she made it clear that the Congress Party had no intention of enforcing one-party rule. "Nor is it true that all opposition has been gagged, even now," she said. "Referring to the situation before the emergency was proclaimed, I declared last June, Mrs Gandhi said: 'Democracy cannot exist if only the Government is expected to act democratically while the opposition behaves undemocratically and unconstitutionally. This is what was happening.'"

The Government has admitted for the first time that isolated groups have attempted to stir up trouble in some areas of India since the state of emergency was proclaimed.

An official communiqué issued last night said that opposition groups which did not belong to the pro-Soviet Indian Communist Party tried to launch strikes last weekend in the states of Orissa and Bihar in north-east India. Such actions are prohibited under the state of emergency.

The communiqué said the population did not obey the strike call and that the country was quiet. Reports from unofficial sources throughout India confirm that the situation is normal in all areas including Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, the only two states whose governments are not controlled by the Congress Party.

In Calcutta the majority and the opposition have started a graffiti campaign, but the slogans are nearly three to one in favour of Mrs Gandhi. —Agence France Presse.



Mr Steve Campbell and Mr Jim Harrel, civilian technicians with the United States military communications unit in Asmara, Ethiopia, seen with guards somewhere in Eritrea after their capture last month by Eritrean Liberation Front rebels.

## China plans more active regional role for Burma

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Aug 13

China will strongly encourage Burma to join the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), a leading representative of the Chinese Communist Party establishment in Hongkong said privately today.

He was not speaking officially — "sourced" party statements in Hongkong are restricted to publication in the communist press — but his authoritative comment significantly coincided with the present "friendly exchanges" in Peking between Mr Chiao Kuan-hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, and U Hia Phua, the Burmese Foreign Minister, who is visiting China.

Burma, always emphasizing its complete neutrality, has held aloof from Asean, which groups Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

It is believed, however, that the transformation of South-East Asia, after the American retreat from Vietnam and the expected phasing out of the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation (Seato), will now bring Burma into Asean.

Peking's support for Asean is believed to be motivated by the growing Soviet presence in the area.

Burma's approach to China will also raise the delicate issue of opium growing and drug running by the insurgent tribesmen on the Sino-Burmese border. Despite China's ban on drug trafficking, the People's Liberation Army units along the border do not interfere with the opium operations of the China-supported Burmese Communist Party in "the golden triangle" (which included also northern Laos and Thailand).

## First Saigon refugees arrive in Paris

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Aug 13

Forty-five French nationals arrived today from Bangkok, the first of an airlift which is to repatriate about 6,000 French citizens from South Vietnam over the next two and a half months. There will be five flights a week to bring out those permitted to leave.

Today's batch had waited anxiously unable to leave the country since April 30. The number of French nationals in South Vietnam is now estimated at 8,000, the majority Eurasians.

M. Jean-Marie Merillon, France's former ambassador to Saigon, who met those arriving at Roissy airport, said today that their repatriation was "an important step in the normalization of relations between France and South Vietnam."

Immediately after the fall of the Thieu regime the French Government urged its nationals to stay in South Vietnam in the hope of maintaining a privileged political and trading status with the new communist regime in the former French colony. But the new South Vietnamese authorities have put difficulties in the way of foreigners during the past three months.

The repatriation agreement, reached after 10 weeks of negotiations between the French embassy and Saigon's military committee, apparently includes an obligation on the French to

evacuate Saigon's other foreign "undesirables". The French Government is paying the cost of bringing the refugees to Europe.

A French solicitor who had formerly owned ricefields said that the Saigon military had granted exit visas only after lengthy checks to see that applicants had paid their taxes. The majority of those arriving today had left everything behind them and several had been living with assistance from the French Embassy.

Among those now staying behind are said to be the representatives of French firms.

The Government is anxious to negotiate its future status with the Saigon regime, particularly to try to avoid a repetition of the loss of substantial assets, as happened in North Vietnam after 1954. French investment in South Vietnam was estimated at 1,000 million francs (about £109m) in 1973, with important stakes in rubber plantations, commercial vehicles, banks, and transport. The French-owned rubber plantations, which formerly handled 90 per cent of South Vietnam's production, are now reported to be occupied by "people's committees".

Bangkok, Aug 13—Saigon airport authorities today refused landing permission to a chartered Royal Air Lao Caravelle sent by France to airlift foreigners, airline officials said. They did not know the reason for the refusal. —Reuters.

## North and South Vietnam attack American UN veto

Hanoi, Aug 13—The North

Vietnamese Foreign Ministry called the American veto on the admission of North and South Vietnam to the United Nations a "political defeat for the United States" in a communiqué issued last night.

"By preventing a peace-loving nation which recovered its independence and sovereignty after long years of fighting from entering the United Nations, the United States acted entirely against the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter as well as against the general tendency of the majority of the countries in the world," the communiqué said.

It said that the people and the Government of North Vietnam intended to contribute their part to maintaining peace and international security as well as to the struggle of peoples for independence, democracy and social progress. —Agence France Presse.

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Bangkok, Aug 13—Two Khmer Rouge leaders, believed to belong to a pro-Vietnamese faction, have been named as deputy Prime Ministers of the Royal Cambodian Government of National Union, according to a broadcast by radio Phnom Penh monitored today.

The new ministers are Mr Ieng Sary, who will concentrate on foreign affairs and Mr Son Sen, chief of staff of the Khmer Rouge forces, who will be concerned with defence. —Agence France Presse.



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## Chile court orders reports on 119 missing leftists

From Our Correspondent

Santiago, Aug 13

The Chilean Supreme Court of Justice has ordered all of the country's criminal courts to give progress reports on cases concerning the 119 missing members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) who, according to foreign press reports last week, are believed to have been killed abroad after having been arrested by the Chilean police.

The courts will have to present reports every 10 days to the Supreme Court about their investigations, Señor José María Eyzaguirre, president of the Supreme Court, told me.

A wave of conjecture has swept across Chile regarding the fate of these 119 people whose families say they have heard nothing from them, or of them, since they were arrested. The speculation began after the publication of the foreign press reports which said that some of the Chileans had become guerrillas and had died fighting the police in Argentina. According to one report, Chileans were killed in Europe during clashes between leftist guerrillas.

The accuracy of these reports was questioned during an interview I had with the Rev. Helmut Frenz, the Lutheran bishop who is president of the Committee of Cooperation for Peace. Last November, he was awarded the Nansen medal by the United Nations for his efforts in defence of human rights in Chile.

He pointed out that an Argentine magazine which carried the

reports did not appear again after its first edition. He said also that nothing was known of a Brazilian publication which published the reports.

I asked him what figures the peace committee has on people who have disappeared in Chile since General Pinochet's coup in September, 1973, whose relatives cannot locate them.

He said the committee had collected statements from the families of 924 people who had been arrested between September 11, 1973, and now.

"This figure refers only to Santiago," he said. "Apart from those arrested who have disappeared, there are more than 4,000 who are in detention camps, jails and penitentiaries, either under arrest under regulations imposed because of the state of siege, or accused or condemned by military justice in the time of war."

I asked the bishop how many detention camps there were in Chile, and whether it was true that there had been hunger strikes in some of them.

He said the camps were for people who were under arrest without charges having been made against them or judicial proceedings initiated. There were four main camps. Prisoners who had been sentenced by military tribunals and those who were still under investigation, were being held in local jails throughout the country.

The bishop added: "We have received information about one hunger strike, at one camp, by 80 prisoners."

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## The People's Republic of CHINA

The Times will be publishing a Special Report on China on September 30th, 1975.

For full details contact Alan Gray, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, or telephone him on 01-837 1234, extension 6195.



## Egypt to ban knives

Cairo, Aug 13—The Egyptian

Government is to ban the carrying of knives. Police recently seized about 1,000 flick knives in one day, mostly from pickpockets and muggers operating on trains and buses. —Reuters.

## Von Braun operation

Baltimore, Maryland, Aug 13.

Dr Werner von Braun, the German-born rocket expert, who is 63, has had a malignant tumour removed at a Baltimore hospital. His condition is said to be satisfactory.



# HOMES and gardens

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THE HUMOUR AND HAZARDS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING  
THE ART OF MAKING ROOMS



*September issue, out now*

## Shopping/Shona Crawford Poole

### Buying pots from potters

Tucked in a walled courtyard, Crail Pottery plays hide and seek with strangers to the higgledy-piggledy streets of the Fife fishing village where Stephen and Carol Grieve set up shop 10 years ago. The Grieves came to Scotland from Ambleside. They bought a disused joinery workshop for £250, converted it into a pottery, and set about making their life and their living as craftsmen potters. The result is the stuff of dreams.

"The local people were amazed when we came here", says Carol. "We spent a year digging the workshop out. It was derelict and there was rubble everywhere. People thought we were mad at first, but it worked. Our children were born here which helped in a way, and now our neighbours come and buy things—the pieces we particularly like as well as the more commercial things."

Above the pottery, which is a picturesque without being cute, is a

studio showroom with an illustrated explanatory display of their work. Its shelves demonstrate the variety of styles produced, from a well designed broad and butter line of ovenproof cooking pots to more exotic wood-fired pieces. Wood firing gives a very subtle and interesting range of glazes, but because of the high cost involved, the Grieves make only small quantities of their work this way.

Their home is just across the street from the workshops. The back garden, luxuriant with fruit, vegetables and herbs is separated from the seashore by a rough grass path. They keep a small boat in the harbour. "I can catch enough fish for a week in an hour here", says Stephen Grieve.

Crail Pottery showroom is open to visitors from April 1 to September 30, weekdays 9 am-1 pm and 2 pm-5 pm, weekend 2 pm-5 pm. During the winter it is open most weekdays, but ring Crail 413 to check.

David Heminsley worked as Head of Ceramics at Belfast College of Art and Design before settling two and a half years ago at the Craft Centre in Balbirnie, near Glenrothes, Fife. The centre was once the stables of the local big house. Now it is a hive of craftsmen, including a cabinet maker,

a weaver, a jeweller and an artist in stained glass. David Heminsley was first into the development, started at the suggestion of David Harding, architect of Glenrothes new town which also has a town artist. "It is a very exciting place to work", he says.

The pottery makes the planters photographed, and a wide range of household pots as well as individual hanging sculptures. Most of his work is in natural colours, beiges, browns, creams and yellows. Visitors are welcome in the workshop and showroom "at any decent hour, but it is helpful to ring and make an appointment if people are coming any distance". David Heminsley's telephone number is 059-275 5975.

Briglin Pottery was started 27 years ago by Brigitta Appleby, not far from her present premises at 22/23 Crawford Street, London W1H 1PJ, telephone 01-935 0605. The workshop is in the basement of a show-room shop filled with pottery, clothing, cards and gifts. The output of Brigitta Appleby and her assistants runs to over 2,000 pieces a week. Mugs are the best seller, and all the pottery's high fired earthenware is decorated. The workshop's speciality is wax-resist decoration, and brown is the predominant colour.

● Shopping page usually includes plenty of items which can be bought by post. This week is an exception because it is about craft pottery. Much of the fun of buying pottery is visiting the place where it is made, and because each piece is unique, choosing what pleases you most. Potteries tend to be small concerns, and potters cannot make pots while coping with a flood of postal orders. And even with careful packing, pots are sometimes broken in transit with disappointment all round.

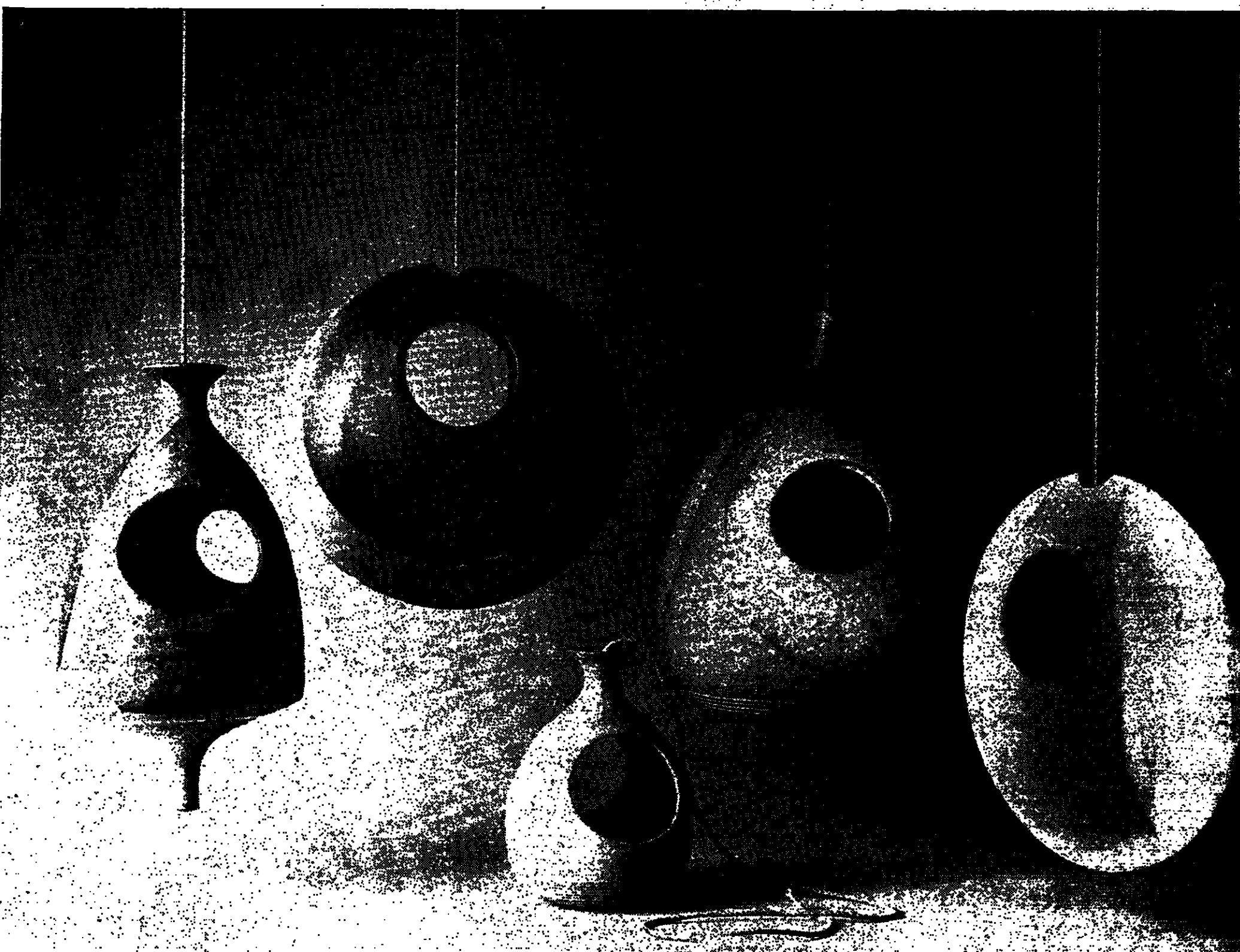
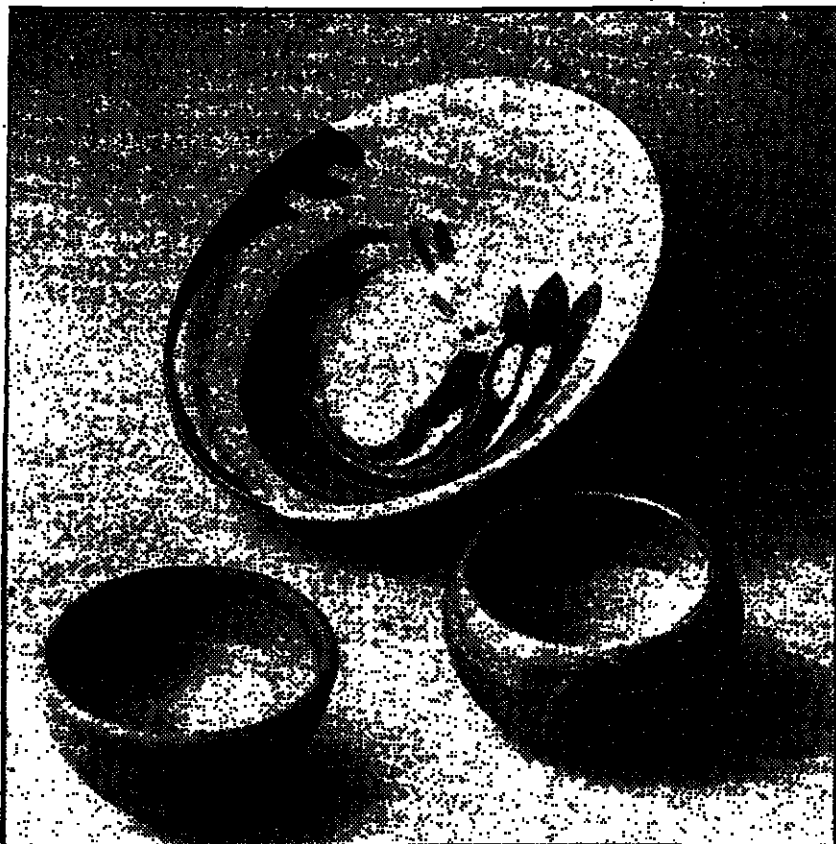
There are hundreds of small potteries and individual potters scattered all over the country. Some are happy to show visitors round their workshops, others admit them to showrooms only. Opening hours are erratic, so it is usually wise to make a telephone call first. Many can be found in *Potters*, an illustrated directory

Photographs of pottery by Trevor Sutton, Brigitta Appleby by Warren Harrison.

of the work of full members the Craftsmen Potters Association of Great Britain. This book, 147 names and addresses, costs 95p plus 15p postage for the Craftsmen Potters Association, William Blake House, Mars Street, London, W.1., telephone 01-437 7605. The Craftsmen Potters Shop, at the same address, carries a wide variety of its work, and prices are often surprisingly reasonable.

Few Scottish potters belong to the association, but many are members of the Scottish Craft Centre which displays a selection of their work. The Centre is Acheson House, Canongate Edinburgh, telephone 031-556 8136.

Some potters do not belong to any organization, but craft know their local suppliers: potters, like artists and writers, are well-known figures in their own areas.



● Top left: three bowls by Crail Pottery. Top is a slipware decorated bowl with a wave pattern in soft blue and brown against a cream background, £3.50. There are similar bowls with patterns like this against dark backgrounds. Left, a small bowl in Crail's ovenproof cooking pot range, 35p. Right, an individual wood-fired bowl, £12. No black and white photograph can do justice to the subtle pinks and beiges of this little bowl.

● Top centre: Brigitta Appleby at work in her basement pottery in London.

● Top right: cylindrical pots from Briglin Pottery. From left: large vase £6.35, wax-resist decorated mug £1.40, wax-resist decorated vase £4.95, and storage jar £2.50.

● Above: a selection of David Heminsley's hanging planters. Most are partially glazed and all the colours are soft and natural. From left, stemmed planter £2.90, disc planter £2.92, small unglazed planter £1.40, and large planter £3.50.

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## ON THE IMPOVERISHMENT OF BOTH

A Government acknowledges purposes in proposing a new system of licensing for private nursing homes and hospitals. One to ensure that patient care in the private sector complies with minimum criteria. The other is to ensure that development of the private sector does not operate to the detriment of patients in the NHS. "It would not be enough," says the consultative document on the separation of private practice from National Health Service Hospitals published this week by the Department of Health, "to make it more difficult to provide a comprehensive national health service by absorbing, either nationally or locally, any undue proportion of scarce skills achieved by training at public expense." These are two very different objectives. Nobody could quarrel with the first. It is entirely proper for the state to exercise authority to safeguard patients in the minimum standards of quality of staff working with inpatient facilities, whether in the private or the public sector. The second objective is quite another matter.

What is proposed is in effect to place a ceiling on the quantity of private medical care that may

legally be offered in this country so as to ensure that the NHS will not be deprived of skilled manpower. Just what the practical effect of such a limitation would be is not certain. The ceiling may have been fixed above the level that would naturally be reached by market forces, in which case it would be little more than symbolic. But predictions of that sort are dangerous. Nobody can be sure what state the NHS will find itself in over the next few years, or whether we shall be entering a new era of prosperity by 1980. In any case it is the principle that matters.

It is entirely wrong that any ceiling at all should be imposed on the provision of private medical care that meets the necessary minimum standard. To do that is to interfere with a simple personal liberty. Ministers may believe that it is immoral to use private medical facilities when there is a national health service available, in which case they may set a personal example. They may believe that it is socially divisive for others to do so, in which case they have formidable means of exhortation at their disposal. But to use the power of the law for such a purpose is misplaced and offensive.

In so far as such a step may

be considered necessary to protect the NHS it is so only because of the doctrinaire division that is to be made between private practice and the NHS. It can only mean that the Ministers, having foolishly insisted on such a division, now fear that too many doctors may decide to go over entirely to the other side. That judgment may well be as unjustified as some of their others, but it does indicate the folly of supposing that medical care in general can gain from drawing as sharp a line as possible between them.

The wiser course has always been to interweave them if anything more closely so that they could share, with a proper division of cost, the use of scarce resources both of facilities and manpower. In that way private medicine could benefit from some of the specialized facilities of the NHS, and the money flowing into private medicine might be used to irrigate the British medical system more generally. What the Government have now done is to produce a document whose main practical effect may be to encourage the still more rapid emigration of doctors, which can hardly be in the best interest of patients in either the public or the private sector.

## WHICH ROAD TO REVOLUTION?

Communist party which power by electoral methods a multi-party democratic system is confronted with an inescapable dilemma. If it promotes its fidelity to the revolutionary principles on which it was founded, it runs the risk of frightening away the voters who support it. But if it abandons those principles and openly accepts the existing representative democracy as a means of attaining its ends, it loses its identity and becomes indistinguishable in the eyes of its own supporters from the bourgeois social democrats, reformists and opportunists whose function is to improve the capitalist system rather than to abolish it.

The effort to resolve this contradiction has now been occupying communist leaders in Western Europe, and especially those of the two largest communist parties in the area, the French and the Italian, for over a decade. The Italians, who inherit from Gramsci and Glott a certain intellectual independence in applying general Leninist propositions to particular Italian circumstances, have moved rather more daringly to an abandonment of the revolutionary pretensions of the French comrades. But both have stressed the need for unity between the communists and the progressive forces, and have often been prepared to modify their own programmes in order to make this possible. In the last year or two, this "unitarian" policy has been aided by a number of factors. The Chilean tragedy of 1973 veiled the vulnerability of a rigid Marxist coalition seeking

to introduce a major social transformation on the basis of a relatively narrow electoral mandate. The French election campaign of 1973 and 1974 failed to produce a change of regime in France but did bring about a spectacular revival of the Socialist Party which many communists felt had been achieved largely by their effort and at their expense. Of all the course of the Portuguese revolution and the bitter quarrel between Socialists and Communists in Portugal this summer has inevitably exacerbated mutual suspicion between communists and their actual or potential allies in other European countries. It has also divided the communist parties among themselves, for while the Spaniards and Italians have felt obliged to criticize certain attitudes of their Portuguese comrades, the French have supported them throughout, joining in their attacks on Dr Soares and bitterly criticizing the French Socialists for giving him support.

Have these difficulties led the Soviet leadership itself to have second thoughts? Some doubts at least are clearly implied in the curious article on "the Leninist strategy and tactics of revolutionary struggle" which appeared in *Pravda* on August 6, over the signature of Mr K. Zorodov, a candidate member of the central committee of the CPSU and editor of *Problems of Peace and Socialism*. After recapitulating at some length the arguments used by Lenin against the Mensheviks in 1905, Mr Zorodov goes on to attack certain unnamed "contemporary conciliators" who are still using "Menshevik logic". These people are accused of wanting to dissolve the party of the proletariat "in an ideologically amorphous organization, in any kind of union created according to the

formula 'unity at any price', and thus of preventing the party from going beyond the minimum demands of 'the most unstable elements' in the general democratic movement.

Mr Zorodov also recalls that although a "popular majority" is an essential component of Leninist revolutionary strategy, for Leninists "this majority is not an abstract, but political". His article may thus be intended as a defence of the Portuguese Communists, who have been much criticized by non-communist commentators for failing to accept the "arithmetic" to result of the general election, which gave the majority to the Socialists and Popular Democrats. But it looks also like a veiled attack on the Italian Communists, with their very moderate political programme and their strategy of "historic compromise" with the Christian Democrats.

The Italian party has clearly taken it as such, for its organ *L'Unità* has published a reply, rebuking Mr Zorodov for "reducing the thought of Lenin to a single concept, to a few quotations and brief formulae", and disingenuously applauding him for saying that the concept of a majority must be political, since "a socialist society cannot be constructed without the consent of the overwhelming majority of working people".

The French Communists are hardly less embarrassed by Mr Zorodov's remarks, and have tartly pointed out that they decide their own policies "in Paris and not in Moscow". But both French and Italians remain acutely concerned about the fate of their Portuguese comrades, and the debate about the implications of the Portuguese experience for other countries is probably only just beginning.

## MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW

The Seeborn report on social services in 1968, and its official forerunner in the Local Authority Social Services Act of 1970, outlined a spectacular increase in public provision for social care. Seeborn played the crucial role in encouraging the interest and investment in the personal social services that was played by Beveridge in the case of social security, and Robbins in that of higher education.

In the past generation expenditure on the personal social services has increased fourfold in real terms. In the last ten years has increased by more than 100 per cent in money terms, from £100m in 1963 to £500m in 1973. A proportion of the gross national product absorbed by social services doubled from 0.4 per cent in 1968 to 0.8 per cent in 1973. Yet in spite of this remarkable expansion, complaints about the adequacy and performance of the social services have increased rather than abated. Last year the House of Commons spentire Committee even asked of "the critical state" of personal social services used by "the non-availability of finance".

Clearly the expectations of the public and the Government have outrun the ability of local authority social services depart-

ments to offer satisfactory solutions within the available resources — although these resources have been increasing at a faster rate than for any other local authority service. The public reaction to the death of Maria Cowell and Steven May is one example of this sharpened expectation. On a more reasoned plane the recommendations of the Finer report on one-parent families are another. The recent action taken by social workers in Tower Hamlets in east London is, in a different way, evidence of the same thing.

From one point of view the first report of the Personal Social Services Council could not have been published at a more unlucky moment. Eight days ago Mr Crossland announced that he would allow for no real growth in the rate support grant to local authorities next year. Social services have already had their growth rate cut from fourteen to six per cent this year. A further cut of similar magnitude will be a severe shock to social services departments, that have yet to absorb the effects of this year's reduced growth. The tension between expanding expectations and contracting resources will become more acute.

Yet from another point of view the council's report is opportune.

It serves notice in forceful terms on both the Government and the public that they cannot continue to will the ends of social welfare without providing the means. Two recent pieces of legislation, the Children and Young Persons Act and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, have added considerably to the burden on social services departments. So too have changes in social work practice encouraged by Seeborn and endorsed by public opinion. Somehow what is expected must be brought more nearly into balance with what can be afforded.

The council can help in this. First, it can act as a lobby for the legitimate claims of the personal social services, because it can plausibly be argued that cuts in some social services entail higher costs in others such as old people's or children's homes, which will in the end be more expensive. Secondly, the council can serve as a forum in which priorities in a time of austerity are discussed. Personal social services cannot be insulated from the harsh economic climate. Greater use of voluntary helpers and some redirection of effort from those services designed to make life more pleasant to essential services designed to keep people out of residential care will certainly be necessary.

be of the greatest practical benefit to London and Londoners. Not only will it give an immense boost to the tourist industry, but it will in the long term help to maintain the city's position as a world centre for trade, culture and entertainment.

The Jubilee will, among other things, be an investment in London's future — an investment of confidence, even more than money. And there are already people willing to put much of the money up. Yours faithfully, ILLYD HARRINGTON, Deputy Leader of the GLC, County Hall, SE1.

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## Used for the day

Ms Lady Holland unemployed. Today LEE office in Lower Sloane street was closed "owing to staff shortage".

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## Jubilee celebrations

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## Threat to MPs from party activists

From Mr Humphrey Berkeley  
Sir, The revelation by Mr Ron Heister that the Campaign for Labour Democracy, with only about 300 members throughout the country, has affiliated to it 55 constituency Labour parties is at least refreshingly candid. What is, however, utterly deplorable is that such a small group of people should be able to gain control of so many constituencies with the avowed aim of ousting sitting Labour Members of Parliament, whose loyalty to the Labour movement is not in question, if they do not hold extreme left wing views. That this political carnage should be attempted in the name of democracy is contemptible.

A member of Parliament in a democratic society should, as far as possible, seek to represent the views of those who elected him of which the members of the Campaign for Labour Democracy represent a minute proportion.

I believe in the party system but all parties are coalitions of interest as indeed the founders of the Labour Party recognized in 1906 when its three component parts, the Fabian Society, the Independent Labour Party and the Trade Union Movement came together.

The Conservative Party and the Labour Party at constituency level have both on occasion refused to readopt their sitting members, when they have been opposed to party policy. Mr Nigel Nicolson, and Mr Stanley Evans are examples of this.

An entirely new development, wholly alien to British political traditions has now occurred. Both in the Labour Party and in the Conservative Party small and extreme caucuses have taken over the constituency parties with the declared aim of ousting Members of

Parliament who have been wholly loyal to their party in their parliamentary conduct. The caucus very nearly succeeded in ousting Mr Nigel Fisher, a former Conservative Minister, in Surbiton and did in fact succeed in ousting Mr Reginald Prentice in Newham.

I have publicly advocated electoral reform in the shape of the alternative vote since 1968. This would enable Mr Prentice, if he so wished, to stand as an independent Labour candidate at Newham without splitting the Labour vote and letting in the Tory. But much more importantly it would make constituency parties much more reluctant to oust their sitting members, because the power of the caucus would be immeasurably diminished.

A constituency party is obviously entitled to be satisfied that the views of its Member of Parliament broadly coincide with declared party policy. I cannot, however, imagine that any party of integrity and self respect and ability would consent to accept nomination if a precondition of that nomination were to be that at all times his views must coincide with those of the Campaign for Labour Democracy, to whom he would be accountable.

In 1931 a Bill providing for the alternative vote had passed through all its stages in the House of Lords and had passed through its second reading in the House of Commons. It only failed to become law because it lapsed when the General Election of 1931 was suddenly called. It should be reintroduced without delay.

Yours faithfully, HUMPHREY BERKELEY, 100, Pages Yard, Chiswick, W.4, August 12.

## Value of tied cottages to agriculture

From Mr Michael Jopling, Conservative M.P. for Westmorland

Sir, At the end of July the Government announced that in the year up to June 1975, the size of each one of Britain's food producing breeding herds has been drastically reduced. Now they have announced plans for the abolition of agricultural tied cottages which will further reduce food production if it is implemented.

There has been no satisfactory explanation why agricultural tied cottages, which constitute only about 10 per cent of tied cottages in this country, have been especially singled out. The reason is to appease the extreme Left-wing consciences of a minority of Labour Party zealots.

The Government have failed to take the facts into consideration before producing their consultative document, which does not even allow discussion over abolition itself: only over the means. The 1973 Tavistock Institute survey suggested that over one-third of farmworkers are thoroughly in favour of the tied cottage system; that only 6 per cent of farmworkers in tied cottages have ever been threatened with eviction, and that only one per cent have ever had court orders served upon them. Indeed the Scottish farmworkers have announced that they are "completely in accord" with the retention of tied cottages.

At least the Government seem to have recognized that total abolition is not sensible. But they are pressing on with plans which will take a large percentage of cottages out of agricultural use.

We all want to help to remove any hardships which the tied cottage system creates. The way to do this is by improving rural housing; but there is nothing in the Government's plans which appear to work towards this end. The greatest hardship to farmworkers comes at retirement, but I am sure that much more could be done with local authorities co-operation to remove this difficulty.

Farmworkers do a magnificent job in providing food for the people of

this country. I fear that in the end these proposals will neither be in the interest of farmworkers, many of whom will face massive rent increases; nor will they be in the interests of housewives, who can only look to dearer and scarcer food as a consequence.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL JOPLING, Opposition Spokesman on Agriculture, House of Commons, August 8.

From Mr H. W. Juniper

Sir, In spite of some disadvantages, the advantage of the agricultural tied cottage to the enterprising farm worker is very real. He is almost the only class of worker who can afford to buy a house of 100 miles and secure promotion or other amenity and a home at the same time. What would be the good of saying to a man "You can have the job and I hope that you will be able to find somewhere to live"?

I farmed in Essex for 27 years and in that time never knew of a good farm worker who was unemployed and available. From time to time I advertised in *The Farmer and Stock Breeder* and engaged, among others, one man from north Norfolk, one from Bedfordshire, and of the two finest men it was my pleasure and privilege to employ, one came from Cambridgeshire and one from a distant part of Essex.

Without tied cottages, or a supply of vacant council cottages, workers will have to stay where they are, and farmers advertising locally will be faced with the deplorable prospect of taking one another's men.

The public want many things but above all they want to be fed. It is by improving rural housing; but there is nothing in the Government's plans which appear to work towards this end. The greatest hardship to farmworkers comes at retirement, but I am sure that much more could be done with local authorities co-operation to remove this difficulty.

## Community Land Bill

From Mr Guy Barnett, Labour M.P. for Greenwich

Sir, It is clear from his article, "How can we afford another army of bureaucrats under the banner of Socialism" (August 9) that Mr Hutchinson has not yet read the Community Land Bill. Nor indeed, despite the impressive credentials he gives him, does it seem that Mr Cleary has either, which is rather a surprising reflection on the Chairman, one of our soundest property commentators.

I was Mr John Silkin's PPS at the time the Bill received its second reading and during its passage through standing committee, and I can assure you that there is no proposal to set up a National Land Authority to staff it with 12,000 people earning average salaries of £5,000 or occupying 150 sq ft of rented office space requiring heating, lighting, cleaning, portage, etc. I am afraid therefore that Mr Cleary's careful arithmetic, which leads him to suggest that the scheme will cost £100 million a year, is based on a totally erroneous premise.

If either of them had studied the White Paper or the Bill they would know that the scheme places the responsibility for land acquisition on local authorities. They would also have known that the Bill includes transitional provisions under which local authorities will possess the power to acquire land (but not the right to sell it) in stages as we move towards the full permanent scheme. So it is not correct to imply that the full cost of the scheme will have to be paid "before a single rod, pole, perch or metre of land changes hands".

Mr Silkin has indeed estimated that when the scheme is fully in operation some 12,000 staff will be needed by all local authorities (including, presumably, cleaners and porters). Of these less than 4,000 will be professional, so that the average salary figure of £5,000 a year which Mr Cleary assumes is a massive overestimate. Moreover, these staffs will not all be extra. There can be little doubt that flow from the scheme is the redeploy-

ment of the wasteful and extravagant use of manpower which resulted from the re-organization of local government carried through Parliament with the full support of Mr Hutchinson. Land acquisition and management schemes involving cooperation between authorities will result in the cutting out of wasteful duplication of officialdom for which Mrs Thatcher and her friends must bear a large share of the blame.

And lastly what makes Mr Hutchinson assume that no benefits will flow from the scheme? Mr Silkin has stated that when it is fully in operation it will earn for local authorities and the Exchequer £750 million a year. Surely that should "gladden many a Tory heart".

It is all very well to complain of Bill's introduction and ambiguities. Mr Hutchinson might discover there were fewer when he has read it.

Yours faithfully, GUY BARNETT, House of Commons, August 9.

## Batting without gloves

From Mr Kenneth Gregory

Sir, Mr Greig's voluminous batting-cum-boxing gloves are all very well, and his stroke play most inspiring, but the fact remains that in 1926 Bardsley, Woodfull and Ryder appeared for Australia wearing glove only on the bottom hand. Pitted against them were Tate, "whose bowling left the pitch at tremendous pace", and Larwood who was "decidedly fast". However the batsmen did not appear to receive blows on their ungloved hands. Did this signify an outstanding technique, or did the batsmen soak their top hands in brine overnight? Come to that, there is a photograph of J. M. Gregory batting against Middlesex (and the fast G. O. Allen) with both hands bare. Perhaps someone can explain.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH GREGORY, Cedarwood, Camilla Drive, Westbury, Dorking, Surrey, August 11.

## Relief of suffering in Ethiopia

From Mr William F. Lee and Mr G. Blair Thomson

Sir, The famine that still threatens 4 million people in Ethiopia owes as much to mismanagement by men as it does to the cruelty of nature. But in discussing the issue of suffering in Ethiopia, your two recent correspondents — approaching the subject from opposite ends of the political spectrum — both make self-contradictory arguments.

Sir Bernard Braine concedes (August 5) that "man-made dislocation caused by war in Eritrea" is hampering famine relief work, but he expects the soldiers of the Derg to respond to humanitarian instincts (over the treatment of prisoners, for example) in return for foreign relief aid.

Mr Jonathan Dimbleby acknowledges the consequences to relief work of the "social upheaval of the revolution", but he blames westerners "who abhor the revolution" for frustrating the humanitarian instincts of the revolutionaries (August 7).

Just as it is difficult to ascribe any humanitarian aspect to a military dictatorship that is pursuing, and wielding, power with increasing brutality and violence, it seems odd to appeal for western assistance at a time when western residents of Ethiopia — including relief workers, and missionary doctors and teachers — are being harassed and attacked by militant students who want all western influences destroyed.

Mr Dimbleby evokes a picture of the Ethiopian Government "on bended knee to the world" for famine assistance. Yet, in his latest television report on Ethiopia, he himself revealed how the Derg's political and military decisions in Eritrea had prevented relief supplies from reaching 100,000 starving refugees. And there has been evidence for some time that the Derg have used foreign relief contributions for military purposes, including the purchase of armaments.

If they want manpower to fight the famine, the Derg might consider diverting to relief work some of the 65,000 student campaigners who are busy teaching peasants about socialism. One might also ask, in view of the need for medical help, why the Derg chose to close the medical school in Addis Ababa last year, just as one group of trainees were about to graduate.

It is just as facile of Mr Dimbleby to blame western attitudes to the revolution for the misery in the Ogaden and Eritrea now as it would have been to blame the Derg's first anniversary celebrations in September, when millions of Ethiopian dollars are to be spent on a single day of political propaganda while many thousands of innocent people continue to starve. An objective view of these festivities by Mr Dimbleby would make an invaluable contribution to world understanding of the Ethiopian scene at this time.

The true "maladministration" afflicting Ethiopia at the moment is not so much in the area of famine relief as in the anarchic chaos which the Derg's policies of terror, intimidation, assassination and deception have inflicted on a people still awaiting the freedom, security, justice and prosperity promised them by last year's revolution.

The misdirected entreaties of your correspondents are unlikely to

alleviate this, the true suffering of the Ethiopian people. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM F. LEE, G. BLAIR THOMSON, 24 Oldslow Gardens, SW7.

From Mr Asfa Wossen Asrat  
Sir, After a few short visits to Ethiopia, Jonathan Dimbleby shows a remarkable grasp of the country's basic problems, and his mastery TV has been justly praised. Nevertheless, there are one or two errors of fact, which I am sure he would wish me to correct. In his reply of August 7 to Sir Bernard Braine's letter of August 5.

He says that the Ethiopian Government has been on bended knee to the world for assistance in the famine-stricken Ogaden and implies that this assistance was withheld. Actually there has been a massive response, from Britain and other countries, but the funds provided have been disastrously mis-administered: trucks intended for famine relief are used to transport troops and weapons; funds donated by philanthropic societies have been diverted to the purchase of arms; in Eritrea, the Dergue has frequently obstructed the distribution of food and medicine by the Red Cross. Surely Sir Bernard should not be criticized for suggesting that foreign aid would be more effective if those practices were discontinued.

No Ethiopian would deny that the old regime neglected the famine of 1973-74. Nor would any wish to return to the old form of government. But when Mr Dimbleby asserts that the situation in Ethiopia is very much better than it was during the famine two years ago, one is obliged to point out that drought and famine are in fact more widespread today, and according to expert analysis the coming year will see many other parts of Ethiopia as seriously affected as the Ogaden.

Failure to deal with this position is not due to any lack of international support: it is the direct result of high-handed action by a group of young soldiers who believe that intimidation and force are the only means of achieving the reforms which all desire. The continuing executions and vengeful imprisonment of opponents of the Derg's rule are evidence of this tragic attitude, and it is surely unreasonable to blame Sir Bernard for objecting to it.

I and many of my fellow countrymen hope that Jonathan Dimbleby, with his genius for TV reporting, will soon return to our country, perhaps during the Dergue's first anniversary celebrations in September, when millions of Ethiopian dollars are to be spent on a single day of political propaganda while many thousands of innocent people continue to starve. An objective view of these festivities by Mr Dimbleby would make an invaluable contribution to world understanding of the Ethiopian scene at this time. Yours truly, ASFA WOSSEN ASRATE, 6 Frankfurt/Main, Beethovenplatz 2, West Germany, August 12.

## Consolidation in Ghana

From the Acting High Commissioner for Ghana

Sir, Kindly permit me to comment on Mr Nicholas Ashford's article, "Ghana's rulers assess popular discontent" which appeared in *The Times* of August 9, 1975.

It is irritating, I am sure, to Ghanaians and Africans in general when Western correspondents, like Mr Ashford, go around smelling coups on the continent just because Ghana has recently been one in an African country. Mr Ashford attributes ominous interpretations to what Lt-Col. Selormey told the students whereas, like his other colleagues, his speech was nothing more than a sincere effort to contribute to the search for solutions to the problems facing Ghana.

When Mr Ashford complains of low basic wages, presumably in comparison to basic wages in industrialized countries, perhaps he should also note that over the past three years and a half, basic wages have been increased by 100 per cent, making them one of the highest in Africa; commodity prices notably for the cocoa farmer, have likewise been increased while salaries have generally been substantially revised upwards. Needless to say that all these changes have been made in response to the need to help the population overcome the burdens imposed on them by the very rise in the cost of living which the writer refers to but which, it must be remembered, was caused by inflation in other countries, especially the industrialized ones.

## Liverpool Street Station

From Mr D. C. Damant

Sir, The letter from Dr Patrick Nuttgens and others (August 8) refers to the destruction of existing buildings "of a quality we could not hope to match today". Did your correspondents really mean to say this? Are these distinguished gentlemen interested in the development of the qualities of modern architecture? No one is qualified to judge whether an old building should be replaced by a new building unless he is qualified to judge the difference between a good new building and a bad new building.

Yours faithfully, D. C. DAMANT, 16 Orchard Street, Cambridge, August 8.

## Higher register fees

From Mr Duncan Harrington

Sir, The punitive rise in costs of certificate prices from the General Register Office (*The Times*, August 6) brings the Registrar General into the newspapers once again. (In January there was a proposal to move the G.R.O. to Southampton). Surely there is an alternative which would reduce the demand on the Registrar General's Office to manageable proportions and negate this enormous increase in price.

Foreign journalists are always welcome to visit Ghana and, contrary to the practice elsewhere, are even encouraged to travel there. No favour is ever asked or expected of them in return. However, one hopes, perhaps inadvertently, that it will not be too much to expect that they should make a measure of sensitivity to the country's problems and give some recognition to the open and manifestly honest efforts which the Government is making to surmount them. After all, it is well known that the main problems which Mr Ashford would make an invaluable contribution to world understanding of the Ethiopian scene at this time.

Reports such as Mr Ashford's, which in the end, tend to undermine confidence in developing countries and consequently impair their well-meaning efforts at national consolidation and construction. When, above all, they happen to be a passionate exercise in speculation, one is understandably distressed because they are printed in a newspaper which is known for its keen sense of principle and fairness. One wonders whether Mr Ashford would have written this article at all, if a change had not occurred elsewhere recently. Yours faithfully, J. G. GBHO, AG High Commissioner, Office of the High Commissioner for Ghana, 13, Belgrave Square, S.W.1, August 11.

Many persons engaged in historical research and family history require only the information given in the registers, not the certificates. Could not the necessary legislation be passed to allow these records to become public records? This would then allow one set of the registers to be deposited for public inspection. Yours faithfully, DUNCAN HARRINGTON, 1 Saint Augustine's Court, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, August 8.

## Haldane's Army

From Mr John Gaylor

Sir, Mr Newcombe (August 7) does well to remind readers that the TAVR is still in being at a time when voluntary service seems increasingly rare. However, it was the Territorial Force which Haldane created in 1908 and I defy anyone to manage that, an ancestor. The title Territorial Army was awarded in appreciation of the TF's services in the First World War. Yours faithfully, JOHN GAYLOR, Honorary Secretary, Military Historical Society, Centre Block, The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, SW3.



## BOOKS

## Discussing Marxism and democracy

## On Socialist Democracy

By Roy A. Medvedev

Translated by Ellen de Kadt (Macmillan, £12)

## To Defend These Rights

By Valery Chalidze

Translated by Guy Daniels (Collins/Harvill, £4)

For every disillusioned idealist who resigns from a communist party another is kicked out for suggesting that the party should be true to its professed ideals. A surprisingly large number of dissidents in trouble in communist countries, or are exiled from them, come into this category. As an unusually frank communist official once said to me when I asked him to explain some recent expulsions from an east European party: "Their real crime, you see, was to say that the system we now have is not truly socialist."

Roy Medvedev, who still lives in Moscow, commits the same "crime". Valery Chalidze, now exiled in New York, inhabits adjacent political territory in so far as he rests his case primarily on the demand that the Soviet authorities should respect existing laws and constitutional rights.

Medvedev is the more thoughtful and analytical of

the two. He has already written a penetrating history of Stalinism and a joint account of the incarceration in a mental hospital of his twin brother, Zhores Medvedev, who now lives in London. His very similar to those of the Soviet authorities but also by many Soviet dissidents who cannot stomach his loyalty to Marx. He is, however, in the mainstream of communist reformers who believe that the corruption of the system has been due not primarily to inherent defects but to the Russian tradition. Stalin, and the machinations of the apparatus set up to administer it.

It is not an easy thesis to defend because of the logical difficulty of saying that a system which produced and obeyed a monster was at the same time the innocent victim of the monster, but he makes a good job of it, and many of his ideas are very similar to those of the Czech reformers whose hopeful experiment was crushed by Soviet tanks in 1968.

He offers a devastating critique of the Soviet system as it is today, explaining how its entire economic and social life is based on a club of dog lovers or cactus growers, a subordinate to the party, so that a threat to the bureaucracy is seen as a threat to the whole of society. He demonstrates

convincingly that the development of the Soviet Union is held back by restrictions on discussion and dissent.

Yet he remains his faith. "It is absolutely not true," he writes, with texts to support him, "that Marxism and socialism are incompatible with democracy." Open discussion, he pleads, would not weaken but strengthen communism by helping it to adapt to new conditions. The most realistic hope, he says, is "for slow and gradual evolutionary transformation". He even suggests the possibility that a form of multi-party democracy could develop — several of the political trends in our country already contain in embryo all the elements of political organizations or parties.

But he is realistic enough to be very cautious. "For most of the bureaucrats and dogmatists in the upper ranks of the party, open debate would be a disaster," he writes, so that "unfortunately we see that the movement towards a 'tightening of the screws' still seems a more likely prospect than systematic development of socialist democracy." Nevertheless, he is convinced that "democratization is an objective necessity for our society. Its inevitability is related to economic and technical progress". As a good

Marxist he therefore believes it will come eventually. It will not come automatically or be handed down from above, he says, it will have to be struggled for. He believes the struggle has already begun, and he sets out guidelines for waging it in a responsible manner within the constitution.

In his cautious optimism justified? His approach certainly seems closer to the inside political reality of the Soviet Union than that of Solzhenitsyn. Let history judge. Meanwhile his book, nicely translated by Ellen de Kadt, is essential reading for anyone trying to understand the Soviet system and the various strands of dissent which it provokes.

The same applies to the more limited work by Valery Chalidze, which is confined largely to theory and practice in matters relating to human, legal and constitutional rights in the Soviet Union. It is a dry but vivid and sometimes humorous book which contains one particularly nice gem from a propaganda pamphlet: "Bourgeois propagandists may in certain cases libellously utilize actual facts and reliable statistical data. With such dastardly tactics being used, no wonder the bureaucracy has to be vigilant."

Richard Davy

preacher, Cale Cape, who

with his family is the central figure in the story. The five men who kill are driven by different motives. George Benson has an unreasoning hatred of Indians, having seen, as a child, his grandfather mutilated and killed; John Wood, at 72, has always killed Indians in defence of his land, and sees no harm in it, and his son Johnny is a simpleton. Then there is Luther Beemis, a wild man now reformed and turned settler, and his friend Ted Clabby, hunter and lone wolf. Clabby disappears, but the others are jailed and a show trial is carefully mounted by the authorities to prevent the Indians from taking a terrible revenge for the moment has passed in history when the law can disregard the killing of Indians, as before.

The guilty hang, to the Indians' disgust. They consider a death by torture more of a testimonial to a man's courage. Caleb believes that the Indians are content, not realizing that they have trapped, and will kill in their own fashion, the last murderer. As one of the prosecutors says, justice is a terrible but necessary thing.

The Understudy is Elia Kazan's fourth novel. The protagonist is Sonny, a Broadway actor, competent and successful, but lacking the spark that would take him to greatness, the stardom, that he wants. Sonny is under the thumb, and the influence, of a man who has been a great theatre actor, Sidney Castleman (born Schlossberg) who rose from the Yiddish-speaking theatres of Second Avenue to the Broadway stage, and then fell out of fashion. He is Sonny's pensioner, his perpetual understudy, and is a monstrous man, treacherous, insulting, impossibly self-centred, but at the same time, the touchstone by which Sonny measures himself and his career.

Ironically it is only by imitating Sidney that Sonny finds fame as "Pappy Morgan", hero of a successful television series, which he knows will devour not only his talent but his entire life. Sidney, who dies penniless and forgotten has been touched with greatness and the actor's power to move an audience. Sonny will always remember that this has been denied him.

Unfortunately, there are several sub-plots, flash-backs during an African safari, of war experiences in Korea, Sidney's rather improbable involvement with organised crime, which detract from what might have been a more powerful novel about the Broadway scene. Mr Kazan, as a well-known director, is in the right place to give us an authentic view from the wings.

Don't Call It Love, by Helen Minir (Duckworth, £2.95). A first novel, chronicling the mad pursuit of Earl Orty, handsome but failed Australian actor, by Joanna Turnbull, 30ish, depressed, separated from tireless husband Cedric Cotton. A satirical look at the drab sex life of Pinsbury Park and its dreary inhabitants — driven along with quite a number of good jokes at a cracking pace. Though everyone is passionately interested in sex, no one appears to have either a mind or a heart. Not that it matters, terribly.

Philippa Toomey

## Crime

## Saturday Games

By Brown Meggs

(Collins, £2.75)

A new star looks as if it has arisen in the crime firmament. Down near the misty horizon still, it is too soon to assess its true magnitude, though in America it has been adjudged second to the best crime novel last year. Already with this one book it would appear that Brown Meggs is an author to be reckoned with. Unfair that some people who have never written a fictional word can step straight into the art. But Meggs has straight away hit upon the three essentials for high success: you want to read him; all he writes rings true; he uses his story to a purpose.

The book is a page-flicker. Partly this desire to find out what is coming next springs from its ingenious form. We see a quarter of Californian tennis players, one of whom has woken brain-foggy from marijuana plus alcohol vaguely conscious that something, something ter-

rible, happened the night before, and during the progress of the book (and of a long Saturday morning on court) what that something is gradually emerges, with a final twist that is only a little contrived. And partly this whizz of a read is achieved by a style at once easy but not surface-skating.

How true is what he tells us perhaps only a Southern Californian could say, but the people, selected residents of the town of Pasadena, certainly are recognisable human beings and of a special sort. The sort they are brings us to what I take to be Meggs's object: to show Pasadena as personifying a whole trend in American living, even in world progress (in a wrong direction). He underlines this, perhaps unnecessarily, by chapter-heading quotations from socio-architectural writers, who sometimes seem, to be frank, a little suspect. But the point he makes, that materialism can turn even the best intentions to frivolity (to put it in a crude nutshell) is valid. It may not, in fact, be all that original, but we need to have such things told us always in the most present tense. And this Brown Meggs certainly does.

## Comfortable and greedy

## The Companion Guide to Burgundy

By Robert Speaight

(Collins, £5)

The Collins Guides are rarely less than companionable. It has been a privilege to prowl Rome with Georgina Masson and to sun in Venice with Hugh Honour, to wander Ireland with Brendan Lehane and to find Serbian food almost palatable with J. A. Cuddon. The only unfriendly element is their size, they do not slip easily into the pocket unless you happen to be wearing a trench coat.

The latest in the series, Robert Speaight's *Burgundy*, is no exception. I have never seen a tourist, or even a traveller, in a trench coat among the vineyards and his 350 conscientious and erudite pages make a companion for the car or the hotel room rather than a book for reading on the hoof. *Burgundy* is for preparing the next day's route, or simply for noting what could have replaced a post-lunch siesta.

Robert Speaight was the first to be *Murder in the Cathedral* and so it is just that he should cherish the romantic in France. He loves the churches and the writers of Burgundy, particularly Vézelay with the grave of Romain Rol-

and and, in another corner, that of the original of Yve in *Le Partage de midi*. And he leaves us at Macon on the southern edge, birthplace of Lamartine who saw the Maconnais, as he viewed so many places, through a thick romantic haze.

Burgundy is grand, fairly thickly populated, comfortable and, above all, greedy. It is as well to get the stomach into training before launching into a week of andouillettes, rosettes and poulets de Bresse. Mr Speaight enjoys his food as much as his poets and churches, and his prose is that of a jolly monk; most of the church of hotels recommended at the end of the Guide have at least one gastronomic star in Michelin.

He likes his wines too, although he is slightly too indulgent of the fripperies of the Chevaliers du Tastevin. But then Burgundy has always been a commercial place, catering all too well, at a price, for the tourists who roar down the new A6 and, at a rather lower mark-up, for the locals. The best products are sheltered from the main road and most notably from the dreary N74 between Dijon and Beaune. But go a kilometre or two to the west. Voltaire gave Beaujolais to his guests and kept the Corton for himself. He was no fool.

John Higgins

The Mandarin Cypher, by Adam Hall (Collins, £2.95). Hongkong setting. Well up to Quiller standards. That unshakable top-man air, the pulsing prose, facts wielded like so many whizzing tomahawks.

Cast. In Order of Disappearance, by Simon Brett (Collins, £2.90). A very welcome first. The go-to-bed-and-be-clever world of the seedy London actor convincingly recreated. Ingenious puzzle, too.

Cop Killer, by Sjöwall and Wahlöö (Collins, £3.00). Arms and the police they sing, mostly in a long, actionless idyll in south Sweden. Only some excellent writing rescues from tedium. (Fine translations, Thomas Teal.)

Where All the Girls are Sweetest, by Richard Butler (Peter Davies, £2.90). Steel-tough, ex-agent in action affair in Italy.

with impressive heat, too erotic, daydream, so warm. Undertone of warmth.

A Witch Dance, by Ken Robert MacLeod (John E. 2.95). Brawny Scots in Munich carnival in Plenty of good-will, action, touches of humour. A decent pleasure.

The Turquoise Lament, D. MacDonald (Hale, £2.95). Soft-centred, private-eye in Honolulu investigating der attempt on yachts; intriguing, but cursed runs away with him.

Mystery Tour, by Rutherford (Collins, £2.95). Murder on Italy co. Guess who the filthy Deplorably short for fun on disc-brakes, limited ferential et al.

H. R. F. K

## DAVID POWNALL

### African Hors

an uproarious new novel by the author of The Raining Tree War

"Anarchic and hilarious adventures which are impossible to summarise."

— Richard Bennett, *The Sunday Telegraph*

"Astonishing and sustained inventiveness... Close to the spirit of such narrative epics as Tom Jones and Don Quixote."

— Peter Ackroyd, *The Spectator*

"Pownall's voice is unique — his sheer ebullience sweeps one past every obstacle."

— Jeremy Brooks, *The Sunday Times*

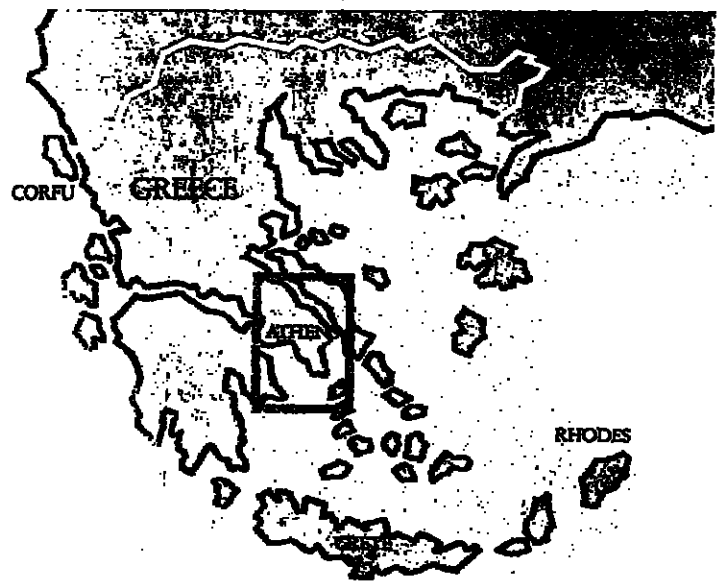
"He's obviously going to build his own comic myth of contemporary Africa — a gargantuan force that can accommodate the real-life spectaculars."

— Lorna Sage, *The Observer*

**Faber & Faber £3.50**

## My dream is a monument to glorify this city-state and its deities for all time.

Pericles, General of Athens, 450 BC.



It was built as manifest evidence of the golden age of Greece. "The Golden Age of Pericles" And more than two thousand years later, the awe-inspiring magnificence of the radiantly beautiful Parthenon on the Acropolis has scarcely dimmed.

One of the most intriguing architectural achievements of all time, this immense "Temple to Athena" was built wholly of marble and conceals structural refinements that still baffle the world. For it is of a design that appears symmetrical simply because it is not symmetrical. A marvel of optical deception that would flatter an illusionist.

Stand on the Acropolis and you stand in the shadows of an ancient civilisation that rose from nowhere to shape the world with its discoveries and cultural innovations.

And that is the magnetism of Athens. The outward attractions of the sapphire seas, the sun-bleached sands, the luxury hotels, are inescapably linked to an intangible enchantment, a sense of unreality, the very presence of

a history that stretches back to the dawn of civilisation. The old lives on with the new.

The Erechtheum, the Propylaea and the Temple of Athena Niki proudly stand alongside the Parthenon on the Acropolis, and vie for aesthetic honours.

The Herod Atticus Theatre takes preservation to the extreme, for it is still in active use after 2,000 years. And treasured monuments such as the Poseidon Temple, perched dramatically on Cape Sounion, take the imagination to unrivalled heights.

Relatively younger, but still blissfully unaware of the march of time, is the Plaka, the old town. Here an endless parade of tiny streets and shops tempt the curious. And here, after dark, is the evidence that Athenians are people of the night. Wine flows in tavernas. Music fills night-clubs. And nobody sleeps.

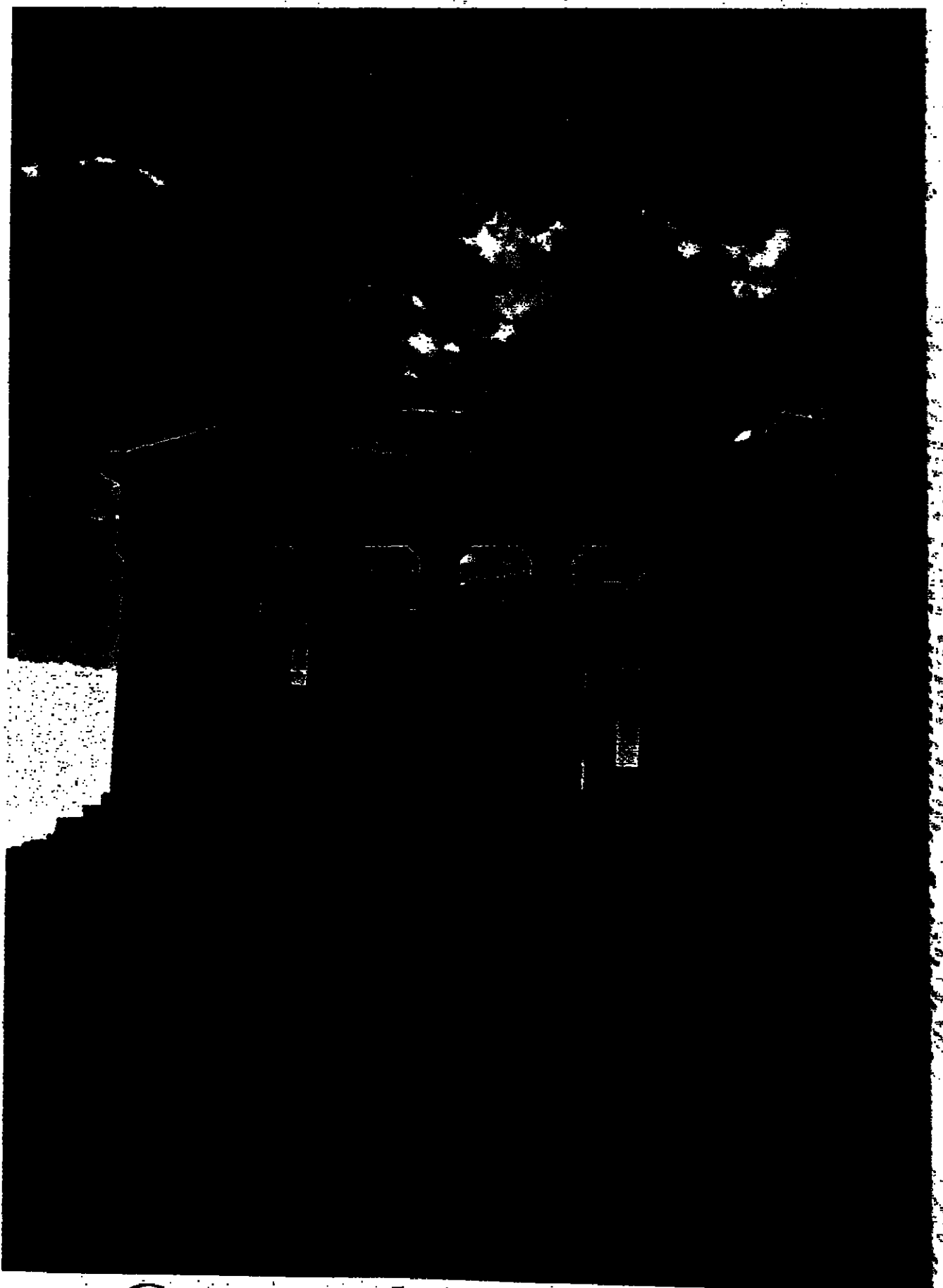
By day, the choice for sun-worshippers is boundless. From the vast stretches of sand that hug the mainland, to the snail-pace of life on the five islands of the deep blue Saronic Gulf.

Each an island paradise of soft sand coves and scaled-down villages, and each just a boat away from Athens.

In fact Athens is the gateway to the whole of the Grecian world. Every adventure is unique. And every holiday becomes an experience.

To discover the limitless choice of holidays, from package tours to Hellenic cruises, just write to: The National Tourist Organisation of Greece, 195-7 Regent Street, London W1. Or call 01-734 5997/8/9. Or ask your travel agent.

In summary, the single quality that separates Greece from the world is timelessness. One has the feeling that Athens will last as long as the Parthenon. And one has the feeling that the Parthenon will outlive time itself.



**Greece and the Hellenic Isles.**  
They're closer than you think.







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## Government forms special unit to strengthen surveillance of car industry

Industrial Editor

separate motor vehicle division under the control of the Department of Industry, is being formed in order to tighten the government's surveillance of the car industry.

A team of civil servants, headed by Mr Peter Carey, Secretary of State for Industry, will work alongside the Industrial Enterprise Board in formulating the government's rescue plan for the car industry.

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state rescue of Leyland is being mounted.

In an interview in the company's staff newspaper, Mr Park says his long public silence, maintained while the old company made way for the new enterprise, was only a matter of time.

Mr Park says, "It was a hell of a lot of money. It was, but about £55m would go to the shareholders and £200m was for the rights issue to be launched in September. From that £200m, Leyland would have to pay back the £100m received to enable the company to survive this year."

He continues: "And there is no doubt that by the end of the current financial year in September there will be a very substantial loss on the year's working." Some £300m earmarked from Government funds for 1976-78 was for capital investment in new plants, facilities, and modernising plants. "That £300m isn't there for the asking, we have to show we are making the type of progress we have promised to make," he says.

The Government had made it clear that it expected Leyland to generate enough cash to pay wages and to cover whatever inflation there is. Every penny would be needed for the business, so there would be no dividends for three or four years.

To illustrate his struggle, Mr Park reports that there is now an inventory of £570m. Even

if inflation was reduced to 20 per cent in the coming year, it meant Leyland must find an extra £114m just to keep pace.

He is asking everyone not to look back and welcomes the union's agreement to proposals to sit on Ryder-style consultative councils and committees. "We have got off to a slow start, now we have to go like hell," he adds.

David Young writes: The motor industry executives who presented their evidence to the Commons committee, and privately shared the initial view that it was following the path beaten by other British Leyland investigations into the industry, have welcomed its report and are already regarding it as the industry's "Bible" for years to come.

Yesterday Lord Ryder, the nominal author of the report on the restructuring of Leyland, which is attached to the committee's report, refused to answer the criticisms.

However, in an interview conducted before the release of the report and published yesterday, Lord Ryder said he had no preconceived ideas about Leyland, and he and his colleagues who prepared the report, were surprised by the extent to which the company could become viable.

Leyland as a company has made no official comment on the committee's report, or on its criticism of the Ryder Report.

British Leyland is about to complete the signing of a contract worth £15m to set up a new manufacturing plant near Ibadan, in Nigeria, which will eventually employ 1,500 and produce cars, Land-Rovers and Range Rovers.

The contract to build the assembly plant has already been drawn up and agreed on, but final signing will not take place until the end of this month.

British Leyland has recently delivered its 1,000th single-decker bus to Africa as part of a £15m contract to Nigeria in a sale arranged by United Transport Overseas Services.

Ford announced yesterday that it is to invest £2.8m in increasing the capacity of its Dagenham diesel engine plant. The project has also involved a £150,000 investment at the company's radiator plant at Basildon.

White collar overmanning: In a continuation of the voluntary redundancy programme launched earlier this year, Jaguar at Coventry is seeking 1,000 redundancies among its white collar staff.

White collar overmanning: In a continuation of the voluntary redundancy programme launched earlier this year, Jaguar at Coventry is seeking 1,000 redundancies among its white collar staff.

## Sir Frank McFadzean appointed head of BA

By Peter Hill

Sir Frank McFadzean, chairman of "Shell" Transport and Trading, with a salary of more than £80,000 a year, is to take over as chairman of the state-owned British Airways, a post with a salary of £23,330, on January 1 after the retirement of Sir David Nicholson.

Sir Frank, who has considerable experience of work in government circles, will join the board of British Airways as a non-executive director at the beginning of October.

In government circles last night it was being suggested that Sir Frank had been offered the still vacant post of chairman of British Leyland but had opted for the British Airways position instead.

Last night Sir Frank, who has been chairman of "Shell" Transport since 1972, was decidedly reticent when talking about his new post.

Asked about particular objectives in his new role, he said that he was attracted to the position because of its international nature. He added, however: "I am not an expert in aviation and it would be premature for me to define my objectives at this point."

It is understood that Sir Frank had indicated that he would be willing to waive his salary but that his wishes had been overruled.

Despite the salary cut, however, Sir Frank will qualify for a "Shell" pension.

A Scot, Sir Frank joined the Shell Petroleum Co in 1952 after working with the Board of Trade and the Treasury.

Four years ago he became chairman of the Trade Policy Research Centre and was made a knight in this year's New Year Honours List. He was recently made an honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics.

Sir David, who will have been British Airways chairman for more than four years when he retires, will at the end of this year go on to become chairman of Rothmans International.



Sir Frank McFadzean: "offered to waive British Airways salary."

## Corah to close three factories as M & S suppliers feel pinch

By Margaret Walters

Yesterday was a day of bad news for the British textile industry as three leading Marks & Spencer suppliers—Carrington Viyella, Corah and Nottingham Manufacturing—produced sharply lower six-monthly profits. Recently, M & S confirmed that it was cutting stocks by up to 10 per cent to counteract a falling level of retail sales.

At Carrington Viyella Mr Leonard Regan, who took over as chairman last month from Sir Jan Lewando, revealed to shareholders a drop in interim pre-tax profits from £4.5m to just £1.8m.

His group had suffered a loss in profits of some £1m in the United Kingdom during the first three months of the year as a result of desocking by retailers, although there had been some improvement in the second quarter.

But whereas the British companies managed a trading profit of £4.3m, compared with £5m, Carrington's overseas subsidiaries—namely Consolidated Textile in Canada—went into losses of £300,000 as against profits of £1.9m last year.

Mr Regan indicated that the future level of retail sales was uncertain, and pointed out that the margins enjoyed by dealers in imported clothing were considerably higher.

Corah, the "St Margaret" knitwear group, three-quarters

of whose production goes to Marks & Spencer, yesterday announced 400 redundancies along with its six-monthly figures. These showed profits down from £635,000 to £280,000 again with losses in its Canadian subsidiary.

The redundancies, amounting to around 8 per cent of the total workforce, will follow the closure of factories at Aberbarrow, South Wales, Bolton upon Dearne, Yorkshire, and Brigs on Humberside. This was an attempt to cut costs.

Finally, Nottingham Manufacturing has produced interim figures showing a fall in pre-tax profits from £4m to £2.7m. Widespread short-time: About half of the 11,000 workers employed in Britain's hosiery and knitwear industry are currently working on short-time according to the industry's major trade organization, the Knitting Industries Federation.

According to a survey published yesterday by the KIF, about 60 per cent of its affiliated firms were operating on a three or four-day week.

Mr Alan Kershaw, director of the KIF, said the level of short-time working resulted from a combination of economic difficulties and what he termed "a flood of cheap imports" including those from Hongkong and Taiwan.

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Financial news, page 23

## Whitehall may fund Buy British campaign

By Maurice Corina

The merits of mounting an official advertising campaign to encourage consumers and industry to buy more British-made goods, equipment and components are under consideration in government circles.

Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, who is due to give a press conference today at the Design Centre, does not rule out the use of public funds to back up his recent crusade for greater import substitution.

Any state-funded propaganda drive on television and in the press could run the risk of overseas criticism, so the likely reaction is one of the factors which Mr Shore has to weigh up carefully before the Government can give the go-ahead.

It would also need the agreement of the Opposition and probably further backing from private industry, who would be asked to stress the British origin of their goods and services in their advertising.

The last "Buy British" campaign was an entirely unofficial affair and did not last long, in spite of enthusiastic work by Mr Robert Maxwell, whose cause did not attract the enthusiastic support of the government of the time.

Mr Shore has, however, become greatly concerned about the increased levels of imports of items for which there are readily available home products of equal quality. In some cases, factories making goods have suffered badly because of import competition.

The Department of Trade has, in the course of some thoroughgoing inquiries into allegations of dumping and the general problem of high imports, concluded that countervailing tariff measures cannot be justified under international trade rules. But a "Buy British" campaign, it is being argued, might be just as effective if properly handled.

The Government has some experience of running national advertising to help the economic situation, having mounted the "Save It" drive to cut down energy use and save imported oil (consumption has been constrained).

Mr Shore recently hit out at people who buy imported cars, and said: "All of us who are concerned about the future of this country, and its industry should search our consciences very carefully indeed before deciding to buy foreign cars."

OPEC terms for oil prices freeze

Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani said yesterday in Milan that the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could extend their nine-month freeze on crude oil prices beyond September 30 on condition that prices of industrial goods sold to Opec members fell. The Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, interviewed by the weekly *L'Espresso*, added: "Otherwise we will decide an increase, even though not drastic."

## 500 going back as Halewood strike ends

W. Shakespeare

strike by doorhangers at Halewood car plant, on

outside, which has cost loss of vehicles worth £2m this week, was called

off last night after negotiations between the workers' shop and the management.

Earlier this year a similar strike by doorhangers at Ford's Dagenham plant caused thousands of workers to be laid off and millions of pounds worth of production losses over several weeks. Ford has maintained throughout that its new

managing proposal was accepted by the car unions as part of the last big wages deal.

Ford was hoping to resume normal production by today.

White collar overmanning: In a continuation of the voluntary redundancy programme launched earlier this year, Jaguar at Coventry is seeking 1,000 redundancies among its white collar staff.

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## Leyland set to conclude Nigeria deal

By David Young

British Leyland is about to complete the signing of a contract worth £15m to set up a new manufacturing plant near Ibadan, in Nigeria, which will eventually employ 1,500 and produce cars, Land-Rovers and Range Rovers.

The contract to build the assembly plant has already been drawn up and agreed on, but final signing will not take place until the end of this month.

British Leyland has recently delivered its 1,000th single-decker bus to Africa as part of a £15m contract to Nigeria in a sale arranged by United Transport Overseas Services.

Ford announced yesterday that it is to invest £2.8m in increasing the capacity of its Dagenham diesel engine plant. The project has also involved a £150,000 investment at the company's radiator plant at Basildon.

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## Report looks at systems for housing finance

By Margaret Stone  
Housing finance systems' ability to function efficiently under conditions of rapid and accelerating inflation, is examined in a new OECD report prepared by Professor J. R. S. Revell of University College North Wales.

The report states that under present circumstances housing finance institutions and systems have much greater need for flexibility than a few years ago. It also claims that what flexibility there is built into existing housing systems is not sufficient to cope with present pressures.

After studying the British system, the author concludes that it has worked well on the whole "with some cracks and groans caused by the spasmodic nature of interest rate changes." To avoid the alternate glut and famine of mortgage funds this causes, Professor Revell says that some more automatic way of making changes would probably have been an improvement. Although acknowledging that a secondary market in mortgages (a common feature of the housing finance scene in both North America and parts of Europe) would be difficult to operate in Britain, the report concludes that a secondary market does serve two desirable functions. It mobilises funds from housing finance institutions which would otherwise not engage in that business and it is an important liquidity tool for the original lenders.

The timing of the report coincides with an important government review of housing finance. \*Flexibility in Housing Finance published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris.

## British Gas hits back at CEEB chairman's taxation proposal

By R. W. Kershaw  
The British Gas Corporation last night hit back at Mr Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, who, in a letter to 60 MPs, suggested that a revenue-earning tax on all natural gas supplies landed would protect the market for indigenous coal and encourage further the conservation of energy.

There was a growing consensus that gas was still under-priced, he said. A British Gas spokesman said: "It is ridiculous at the present time to talk in terms of tax on gas when the crying need is to conserve energy generally."

### £7,400m Bonn budget deficit likely

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, Aug 13  
The West German federal government budget deficit is likely to total at least DM40,000m (about £7,400m) this year, DM10,000m more than originally anticipated, according to Dr Hans-Herbert Weber, head of the Bonn Finance Ministry's money and credit department.

As the combined deficit of the federal states and local authorities has been estimated at DM30,000m, the overall West German public sector borrowing requirement this year can be conservatively estimated at DM70,000m.

It has been made clear that the government does not intend to borrow abroad. This self-imposed restriction makes the role of the domestic capital market all the more important.

gas its price would increase and demand would be inhibited. It would simply mean that people would switch to another form of fuel.

"In the domestic market, the main competitor is electricity. This would mean other kinds of fuel, coal or oil would have to be burned to generate that electricity. That wastes much more fuel.

### UK holiday company gets state export credit backing

By Patricia Tisdall  
A large tour operator specializing in bringing foreign holidaymakers to Britain, Sainsbury Holdings, has been given sanction by the Export Credit Guarantee Department and the Secretary of Trade. It is the first decision of its type and may set a precedent for the rest of Britain's tourist industry.

The sanction gives Sainsbury's debtors abroad full insurance, with the ECGD providing an unconditional guarantee to the tour operator's bankers covering its trade activities as an exporter. It means the company has security of trading, in addition to easing cash flow problems which might result from transfers of funds from abroad.

Sainsbury, which deals in inclusive holidays to the United Kingdom from Italy, Spain and Portugal, estimates that it has earned more than £4m in foreign currency during the past year.

To make this suggestion at a time when British Gas was trying to maintain prices for at least a year was "unfortunate". Asked if the corporation shared the view that gas was under-priced, the spokesman said: "Gas is competitively priced in the markets to which it is best suited, the premium domestic market."

There were no bulk gas users in industry because there was no natural gas available for them at the moment. The Frigg field would come on in the second half of 1977 and first supplies would go to the domestic market.

### Builders call for suspension of controls

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent  
Leaders of the building industry have urged the Government to suspend controls on industrial and commercial building as one of the measures to alleviate the construction industry's pressing problems.

In a detailed letter to Mr Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, the National Federation of Building Trades Employers has underlined the gravity of the situation now facing the industry, where unemployment is currently around 250,000 and still rising.

The federation expressed its concern at the serious disruption to the country's housing programme, because of party political considerations. Apart from the plea to ease controls on industrial and commercial construction, the NFBE has called for a reversal of the current decline in the levels of money available through grants for the improvement of existing houses.

### Former Franklin Bank officials on indictment

New York, Aug 13.—A 76-count criminal indictment was brought today against two former directors and six former officers of the collapsed Franklin National Bank and its holding company, Franklin N.W. York Corporation.

A Federal Grand Jury in New York charged the men with misappropriating more than \$30m (about £4.3m) of the bank's funds, mostly by unauthorized speculation in foreign exchange which at one point put the bank in a "short position" exceeding \$400m.

The men, who are also charged with conspiracy to defraud the government, include Signor Carlo Bordini, a Milan banker and close associate of the Italian financier, Signor Michele Sindona.

—AP-Dow Jones.

### Italy and Britain top EEC strikes record

Brussels, Aug 13.—Italy, Britain and Ireland have the worst record among EEC member states for industrial disputes, according to figures published today by the European Commission.

During the past six years British industry has suffered most from the number of working days lost on two occasions. In 1971 more than 13,500,000 working days were lost out of an EEC total of 37 million, and in 1972 nearly 24 million out of a Community-wide total of nearly 45 million working days.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Slumping Superdeal

From Mr J. Mortimer  
Sir, Readers of Times Business News are no doubt grateful to Mr Lionel Altmann for presenting the motor dealers' case.

As President of the Motor Agents Association, Mr Altmann's allegiances are clear. Even presumably to the extent of supporting the 1,500 or so members of his 18,000 strong association who do sell foreign cars and who, no doubt, are subject to the exhortations of Trade Secretary Peter Shore to search their consciences not to support imports.

Naturally, I will not retract my views. And judging from those who share them these are not so out-of-date as Mr Altmann would like to think. They are in any case supported by the latest figures of July registrations published by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Sales of British cars in July were 38,662—10,714 less than in July, 1974. British Leyland sales were down by 654. Yet what happened to the importers? They managed to sell an extra 2,164.

If dealers selling British cars are as aggressive as Mr Altmann claims why then did they not obtain the extra potential sales on the market instead of letting them fall into the hands of importers?

In his letter Mr Altmann referred obliquely to Superdeal. The object of that campaign is to secure a 38 per cent market share for British Leyland's cars and regain market leadership from total imports. British Leyland's market share now stands at 32 per cent and

dealers claim they are short of certain British Leyland models in the Superdeal campaign. Mr Altmann's campaign is not due till October or November, well outside the period of Superdeal.

There are several interesting aspects of Superdeal. The campaign awards for dealers are such that not all cars traded in for British Leyland cars enjoy quite the same cash bonus.

For example, for trading in a Ford a dealer gets £50 which the customer takes a Chrysler or Vauxhall car then the dealer gets nothing in pass on. And that customer does not get such a Superdeal.

This is, of course, aggression on the part of the manufacturer—not on the part of the dealer.

Incidentally all sales in excess of target qualify the dealer for a further cash payment of £75. But the targets are not outrageously large. Simply the agreed sales objective for the coming months of August-September.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MORTIMER,  
The Engineer,  
30 Calderwood Street,  
Woolwich, London SE18.

### Inflation accounting may boost state loss

From Mr H. Toth  
Sir, The annual re-nationalized industrial losses although a number nations have been of one has yet suggested new conventions of ing for inflation" may play a considerable role in raising cash prices, which gives rise to inflation and losses.

This comes about ways: First, by revaluing like for like replace the charge for depreciation by increased future one includes future increases in wage b everyone knows u

So now that we are in a rapidly in period.

Second, the disly twelve capital and expenditure is diffie many cases a matter as, the Royal C on Wealth revealed, ing some capital e to trading and profit accounts, a further a inflationary screw la

and price restrict about using the tims to look at the u effects of our acco ventions and tax law HENRY TOOTH,

Senior Lecturer, Department of Accounting, School of Business St City of London Polytechnic, London, EC2.

### Idea for PO to save mor

From Mr S. Fortescue  
Sir, May I suggest the columns an idea for S Rylance in his search in running the t

Once a year telep scribers in France re their quarterly acc the PTT a voucher from post office a copy of phone directory for customer but, I would considerable savings i costs and the avoidan ing unwanted directo Yours faithfully,  
S. H. FORTESCUE,  
The Terrace,  
Barnet, London, NW13.

### Why industry can't recruit scientists

From Mr R. H. Perrin and others

Sir, We read with incredulity the article by Kenneth Owen, your technology correspondent on August 8 which amply demonstrated the depth of ignorance of British management.

As three scientists engaged in industry we suggest that Mr Campbell-Adamson et al examine in detail the salaries, facilities and opportunities offered to those considering continuing a career in science and technology within the industrial sector.

One of the root causes of industry's failure to recruit bright young men into science is immediately apparent when comparing industrial scientific conditions with those in non-productive areas like banking, insurance and advertising.

Generally, a company will devote a minuscule share of resources in providing facilities for its technologists to achieve the best work, and its industrial research and development groups are barely tolerated by the accountants and book-

keepers who now dominate industry.

Our third major point is that a change in social status afforded industrial scientists is long overdue, especially when compared with solicitors, bankers, medical practitioners and others where professional status is high.

The consequence of an industrial scientist's poor conditions and status is little or no opportunity to participate within the decision making process of industry; yet it is entirely due to the historic innovations of the industrial scientific community that British industry has survived.

Therefore, we suggest to Mr Campbell-Adamson that he re-examine forthwith that every company, member of his organization appoint scientists and technologists to their respective boards, with authority and not just responsibility.

Yours faithfully,  
R. H. PERRIN,  
R. J. NASH,  
The Engineer,  
52 Park Avenue,  
Birmingham B9.

### Business appointments

## Sime Darby London names chairman and managing director

Mr S. P. Wareing, finance director of Consolidated Plantations, the plantations subsidiary of Sime Darby, has been named as managing director of Sime Darby London in November.

Mr T. E. S. Hodgson has been named as director of Lloyds Bank International. His executive vice-president and chief manager of LBI's North America Division. Mr Guy Huntrods has also been made a director of Lloyds Bank International, with effect from October 1, when he will assume the executive directorship of LBI's Latin America Division.

Mr Kenneth Darby becomes managing director of Lodge Cottrell.

Mr Austin Pilkington has been named financial director of Crosby Valve & Engineering and Harmark-Litex.

The South African Wine Farmers Association (London) has acquired the share capital of Edwards, Cavendish & Sons, a private company which has not previously traded. Appointed directors of the company are: Mr R. R. Stokes-Rees (chairman); Mr J. M. Evans (managing); Mr H. C. C. Damsant and Mr R. R. Howell (also secretary).

Good Relations City and Financial Press Information Services, also trading as Spectrum, have merged their operations and will trade in future as Good Relations City. John Cullis, managing director of FRIS, succeeds Mr David Lewis as managing director of Good Relations City. Mr Lewis becomes deputy chairman.

Henderson Administration has formed an association with Mackay-Shields Financial Corporation. Mr G. F. B. Grant and Mr A. B. Henderson have joined the board of Mackay-Shields, while Mr G. Mackay has joined the board of Henderson Administration.

Mr A. C. Tomkins has joined the board of Newley-Goodall Group.

Mr Stanley Shepherd, formerly managing director of Europa Insurance and Europ Assistance, has been appointed director of J. Perry (Holiday Insurance).

Mr Francis Harper has been appointed general manager of the Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding.

Mr Arthur Locke, vice-chair-

man and managing director of Lovell and Christmas (Northern), has retired after 48 years with the company and is succeeded as managing director by Mr George Newell.

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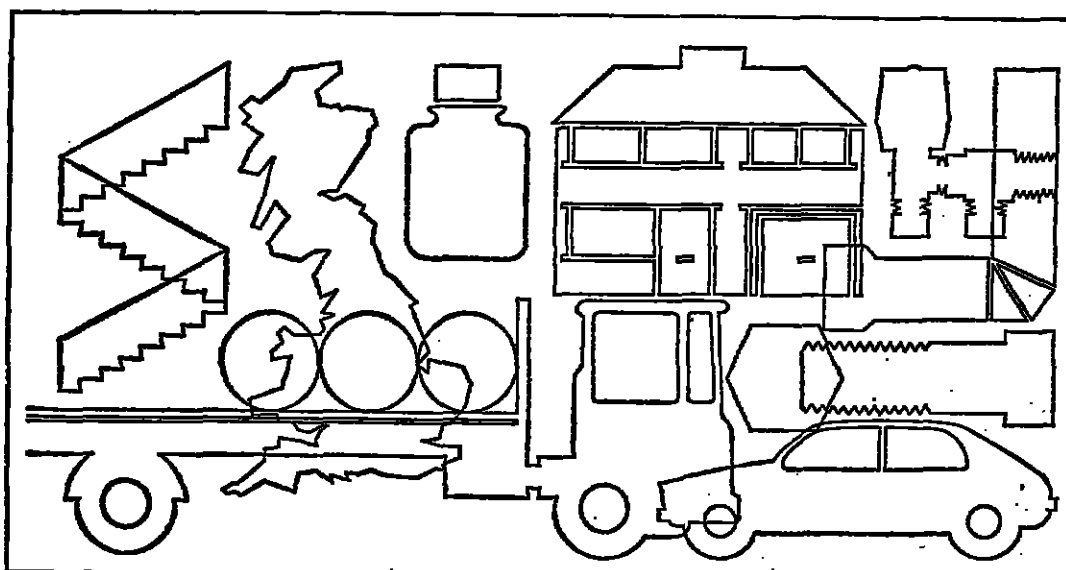
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Mr Arthur Locke, vice-chair-

## Glynwed Limited Interim Statement

52 weeks ending 27th December, 1975



### Trading Results

Group profit before tax for the first six months of 1975 amounted to £5,285m compared with £8,452m for the corresponding period of 1974.

Despite the recession in most of the industries in which the Group operates, the building and consumer products divisions maintained the same overall level of profitability as in the first six months of 1974, the consumer durables in fact showing some improvement.

On the other side of the Group's activities steel re-rolling and engineering also produced somewhat higher figures than in the comparable period but the world-wide recession in steel production and demand has inevitably been reflected in a reduction in profitability in steel stockholding.

The South African subsidiary suffered from a sharp reduction in the level of building activity and contributed only a small profit at the half year stage.

In the Chairman's Statement which accompanied the Accounts for 1974 it was indicated that this year efforts would be concentrated on generating cash; for the first six months the Group was ahead of cash budget and at the end of June was operating comfortably within the facilities available.

### Ordinary Dividends and Prospects

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend for the 52 weeks ending 27th December, 1975 of 2.45p per share (1974: 2.45p) payable on 22nd December, 1975 to Ordinary shareholders on the Register at close of business on 5th September, 1975.

Present estimates indicate that profits for the second six months of 1975 should be about the same as those for the first six months. In these circumstances the Directors expect to recommend a final dividend equivalent to that for 1974.

The unaudited results of the Group for the 26 weeks ended 28th June, 1975 together with the published figures for the corresponding period of the previous year and the final audited figures for the 52 weeks ended 28th December, 1974 are summarised below:—

	1975 26 weeks to 28th June	1974 26 weeks to 28th June	1974 52 weeks to 28th December
Turnover of the Group	£103,605	£107,397	£208,353
Group Trading Profit	5,907	9,345	17,493
Debtors and Loan Stock Interest	622	893	1,783
Group Profit before Taxation	5,285	8,452	15,710
Taxation	2,556	4,328	8,282
Group Profit after Taxation	2,729	4,124	7,428
Extraordinary Items	—	—	410
Profit attributable to Minority Interests (1975—Loss)	9	7	114
Profit attributable to Glynwed Limited	2,738	4,119	6,904
Dividends:—			
5.425% (formerly 7%) Preference	35	35	70
Ordinary—Interim 2.45p per share	1,149.245p	1,143.245p	1,143
Final	—	—	3,828.5p

### Notes:

U.K. Taxation on the profits of the 26 weeks ended 28th June, 1975 has been estimated on the basis of 62% Corporation Tax (1974—same). Overseas Taxation has been estimated at the appropriate rate.

GLYNWED

Dudley Road West, Tividale, Warley, West Midlands, B69 2PH.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Unilever moving into the recovery phase

After a fairly rough patch weeks back, the Unilever price has recently been steadily outperforming the market. And at this stage there is good reason to expect a further recovery phase, which could well be a more or less average for the next 12 months, it still to be heading for some-thing close to the 500m mark. Second-half profits of £140m to around £200m, strong base on which to base 1976.

The main impetus in the second half is going to come from this year's sharp rise in commodity prices, which these are expected to be a quarter of their points in June, many are down by something like 50 per cent from last September's levels. The benefits should be starting to flow through the company's accounts, as demand looks to be picking up again in areas like food, while the cream is still having a very good run at least in Northern Ireland.

It is, surprisingly, of some interest in Australia, but continuing losses in Canada, South Africa and Europe. At 164 per cent, the rise in investment income to £19.1m looks somewhat above par. The fact that the company's 40 per cent rise was boosted by the rights issue and so forth. The market is now waiting to see how effective Royal's cutbacks in the United States have been.

**Interim 1975 (1974)**  
Capitalization £168m  
Net written premiums £225.3m (£188.1m)  
Pre-tax profits £5.4m (£16.4m)  
Dividend gross 4.35p (4.03p)



Mr. David Orr, chairman of Unilever, starting to see the benefits of lower commodity prices.

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**Carrington Virella**  
Deep in the trough

If there is one thing that is worse than a recession that is nasty, brutish and short, it is one that promises to be nasty, brutish and long. Yesterday's results from Carrington and Corah reflected what is generally reckoned to be the nadir in the textile cycle in North America in the form of some hefty losses.

But that leaves the United Kingdom divisions of both companies suffering fairly heavy drops in profits by comparison, yet looking increasingly as though they are starting off rather than reflecting the evil day. Carrington's United Kingdom profits fell from £4.5m to £1.2m after losing ground by an estimated £1m in the first quarter due to restocking. While the second quarter was obviously an improvement, this could have been due entirely to some gentle rebuilding of the pipeline had been entered.

But the group itself, which has been operating at production levels only slightly higher than those during the three-day week, seems quietly confident and reckons that it could take a further fall of up to 5 per cent in the volume of retail sales without finding itself in any worse a position than it already is.

Meanwhile, Carrington points out that it has managed at £1.4m, a reduction in working capital since the last year, which, given inflation, looks creditable. But it is a drop in the ocean as far as the total of over £80m is concerned and perhaps underlines the admitted need for the group to manage some kind of equity funding over the next couple of years in order both to finance the next textile upturn and expand the equity base in view of the uncomfortably high level of borrowings.

**Interim: 1975 (1974)**  
Capitalization £64m  
Sales £106m (£129m)  
Pre-tax profits £10.32m (£10.24m)

## Business Diary: Sime Darby day • Storey time

business of restructuring Darby's management. In view of the fact that the chairman, Dennis Pinder, a year and a half ago has been a protracted process of departures and also is the appointment of Waring as managing director of Sime Darby London, appointment that will see the many Sime Darby here.

being an English-born infant who was educated in India, and has most recently been director of Cuscat Plantations, one of the important and profitable of Sime Darby. At 35, he is regarded as a rising star. It had been widely expected that Sime Darby London was being run down. The fact that he had been formed to be Clive Discount and to head Pinder's growth ambitions in Europe, ambitions which seemed to have ended with departure of Pinder. Indeed, the London end of the group looked something of an armchair. After Angus left his post as London director to the group in November, 1973, proceedings for the recovery of money were set on by some group company to be withdrawn upon consent by Scott of an agreed amount, and was believed to be in the hands of Sime Darby.

disengage from Clive, something that was achieved in June this year, when 85 per cent of his holdings was floated to the public.

Waring's appointment suggests that Sime Darby has far from forsaken its ambitions in Europe; however. How long, then, before we see Sime Darby again doing some deals.

**HAC issue**

The Department of the Environment's massive on high alumina cement may bring tidings of great joy to house and flatowners, but it doesn't do much for the commercial developer, since one of the reservations is that buildings should not be more than four stories tall.

The big problem for the developer, apart from the risk of somebody being hurt, has been: who is to pay for any remedial work that might be necessary in the event of the Government issuing new instructions? MEPC, for example, faced some haggling with tenants before the opening of its Brent Cross shopping centre development in north London earlier this year.

Meanwhile, although developers themselves have been reluctant to discuss the business implications of the HAC scare, the chartered surveyors involved in office development have been obliged to include the issue in their calculations.

An example of this is to hand in the offer document from Granada for Barranquilla Investments, which finds Healey & Baker cautiously commenting that as far as they know—HAC has been used only in two of Barranquilla's dozen properties, the direct, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Telecommunications Carriers Association, in which the need for associations to be more internationally-minded was stressed. But that will take time.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the self-regulation issue, does in fact that governments feel it necessary to exercise such power as to make government or about trade associations?

Unfair perhaps

Estate agents were perhaps entitled to feel a little hurt yesterday at being presented as the star turn of changes to be made in the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968.

On the Office of Fair Trading's own say-so, it was not estate agents but car dealers who are the really naughty boys in the misrepresentation game. But while the tugging war goes on in the Mayfair-St. James's area yesterday, another, and sympathetic sound was to be heard at the Grosvenor House on Park Lane.

Robert Fenau, director general of the Union of International Associations was over from Brussels, and warning of the extent to which govern-

Peter Readman concludes his two-part article on new sources of company finance

## Institutions and long-term risk capital

If one accepts that British industry needs new investment and this would involve a significant proportion of risk capital, which has not been provided in sufficient quantities, then one of the key questions is who, anybody—is going to fill the gap?

There are only three possibilities: Either the government can intervene, the savings institutions can take up the challenge, or both can attempt a joint solution.

Certain members of the present Government have already indicated their desire to intervene in this field, but there are two major problems—conflict of interest and limited capacity. The first is important if only because its validity is not often recognized by politicians.

Successive governments' records as investors of taxpayers' money in industry have been patchy. Their frequent need to alter key economic variables, such as pricing policy for macro-economic reasons, as well as to secure short-term political advantage. Added to this is a general feeling among some politicians that the Treasury is an endless money tree providing taxpayers' money supplemented by domestic or international borrowings to bolster up commercial ventures which have no commercial future.

The recent decision on Norton Villiers Triumph is a sign of the times and is a reflection of the second major problem the Government faces. The money tree has stopped growing and the Government is faced with a need for a long-term increase in the Government's deficit month by month.

The Government already faces a massive "estimated" £3,000m borrowing requirement to supplement its revenue for this year's spending, and it is unlikely that this will be enough. Any question therefore of spending more money to assist private sector investment is academic. Apart, therefore, from any credibility gap resulting from the Government's "records" as investors this Government simply does not have the funds or indeed access to the funds required to make a significant impact.

It seems clear that this was in the minds of those responsible for suggesting that savings institutions should channel a proportion of their funds into the National Enterprise Board.

This would indeed enable the NEB to extend its involvement in private industry and would provide the potential structure for a joint solution. But such action would immediately give the Government power over investment decisions now made in the City on the basis of commercial criteria and would be likely to have a detrimental effect on Britain's free market financial system.

Many would argue that this joint solution is the most desirable, but few in the City would agree and for the very good reason that the multitude of skills required for making sound investment decisions are to be found in the square mile and not Whitehall.

The City undoubtedly has many of the skills required even if it is, as its critics suggest, weak on industrial know-how. It also has substantial though not unlimited funds at its disposal. The savings institutions, comprising the pension funds, insurance companies, unit and investment trusts receive approximately £3,500m of households' savings each year and these are the only large source of uncommitted funds in the economy.

The Diamond Commission Report reflected that the institutions are already the largest investors in industrial equities and are gradually taking over from the private investor whose share of equity holdings has dropped from 59 per cent in 1963 to 42 per cent in 1973. As the institutions are already so heavily invested in equities it is not unreasonable to suggest that their own long-term growth and viability are inextricably linked with the long-term growth and viability of British industry.

The lack of equity funds is one of the factors inhibiting industrial growth, it is arguably in the enlightened self-interest of the savings institutions to do something about it. Although the funds are not without their own problems, the fact that people's money has come in for severe criticism of late, the results have been nothing like as bad as that of governments.

And the reason is that the institutions have established themselves to produce results for their shareholders, policyholders and investors and go out of business if they are not commercial. Government on the other hand does not normally allow competition, and has no means of imposing a similar obligation on the taxpayer.

It can therefore be argued that the best solution for the long-term interest of the country is to persuade the institutions, whose own interests are tied to the long-term success of British industry, to take up the challenge. It is also worth bearing in mind that the source of whatever funds are made available to industry is ultimately the private individual, whether through his voluntary contributions to savings institutions or his involuntary tax payments to the government.

On the evidence publicly available his interests in this vital area of stimulating private sector investment will be served better by the savings institutions than by government.

This is the background to the discussions which have been taking place during recent weeks. The strong arm tactics of compelling institutions to contribute a proportion of their new cash flow to a government institution such as the NEB have been set aside in favour of the more constructive approach of attempting to explain to those involved the nature of the problem and asking them to contribute their own ideas.

Many suggestions have been put forward from various quarters, but the one which is most likely to be successful in the private sector, will have to depend on the commercial requirements of the institutions in the light of their obligations to shareholders, pensioners and policyholders. Any private sector solution to a private sector problem should therefore be restricted to commercially viable companies and projects which for some reason are not being financed by the market. There are, however, a number of general points which can be made about any institutional attempt to fill the equity gap. If this analysis is correct, the need has emerged for the institutions to provide on a continuing basis an additional source of long-term risk capital for manufacturing companies with a profitable future.

In order to accomplish this a single fund, or series of funds, should be established to meet the various requirements of all the major savings institutions, which would be asked to contribute a proportion of their new cash flow. The actual volume of funds subscribed need not be enormous, since a contribution of even £120m per annum would double the average amount of equity raised from

1970-1974, and such a figure would represent less than 5 per cent of estimated institutional cash flow for 1975.

It would, however, be important for all the savings institutions to participate, as this would avoid any rivalry between those who do and those who do not participate, and also enable contributions to be spread fairly between all. It would also be sensible to set a target of, say, £250m—one of the most recently mentioned figures—but only draw down that volume of funds which would be used relatively quickly.

If by chance the demand for such equity funds failed to materialize, there should be no hesitation about concluding the exercise and returning the excess funds to the institutions. This would therefore be very much a "try and see" initiative, but if demand was strong and the institutions satisfied with the investments being made on their behalf, then it should be possible to increase the size of the fund.

The fund could operate as an underwriter, as subscriber for rights issues or new issues, as an investor in private placements and as a joint venture partner with a company for a specific project. It is unlikely it would use its resources to buy the existing equity of companies as the NEB aims to do, but would rather provide new risk capital for viable industrial projects. This last point needs stressing as it is unlikely that any city institution would be attracted by the idea of supporting lame ducks.

It would receive dividends on its investments, underwriting fees, and profits on the occasional sale of proven investments: the dividends paid to its investors would be performance-linked, providing lower returns initially, but increasing as investments come on target.

Another important aspect of such a fund would be to secure top class management. The institutions have always said they do not possess the skills to be involved in industrial management. This would be an ideal opportunity for them collectively to assemble such a management team under the leadership of a respected industrialist/financier.

Whether such a management team would ever be asked to involve itself in the types of problems the Institutional Shareholders' Committee faces is another matter, but certainly

worthy of consideration at a later stage.

Such a fund would in no way be a replacement for any of the existing financial mechanisms. The primary market of the Stock Exchange would continue to operate as the major source of new equity finance, and any new fund would merely provide additional capacity to supply equity at those times when share prices are low, and at all times for viable projects which do not fit traditional market criteria.

The management of the fund would also have to work closely with the banks and FFI, so as to provide industrialists with the opportunity to negotiate a combined package of bank, medium-term and equity finance within a specific period of time.

Whether or not the institutions will feel able to respond to such a challenge is an open question. There are many good reasons for them not to do so. The first is that it would be more an act of faith than a balanced commercial decision, as recent governments have given little indication that they understand the true role of profits. Without this understanding there is no reason to suppose that investment through a specialized fund will be any more successful than through normal channels.

Indeed, many would argue that there will be higher risks attached to this centre, and therefore rewards in the form of dividends will have to be higher. It is also open to question whether governments will be in a position to reconsider their short-term approach to economic planning; it is more than anything else which is the reason behind the short-term consideration the city applies to investment.

But if the savings institutions can take such an initiative to co-operate with industry in this way, they would at least be seen to be responding to a national problem. And there is at least a chance that their joint efforts would contribute to a reversal of the current decline in manufacturing industry, to a degree which is disproportionately large when compared to the amounts of equity involved. The alternative, if government, city and industry continue to work independently of each other, is for that decline to continue to accelerate.

of loans available to the small and medium-sized companies.

Another devaluation, of 20 per cent, was announced Saturday. Time will tell whether the concessions that the Government, under the new economic minister's influence, is prepared to make are sufficient to diminish worker discontent and, secondly, whether the Government has the economic strength to push ahead with its own solutions, in fact of growing disapproval from powerful groups abroad.

**Sue Branford**

## Argentina: running out of time, money and options

Argentina's new Economics Minister, Señor Antonio Cafiero, faces daunting problems. Last week the Export Credit Guarantee Department restricted insurance to short-term business, and the United States Risk Indemnity Corporation (USRIC) now gives a rating of only 40 per cent, labelling it a "highly dangerous zone".

In just a year since the death of President Perón, Argentina's economic situation has deteriorated dramatically. Its most pressing problem is its foreign debt of about \$10,000m, of which \$3,000m is due to be repaid this year. Foreign reserves have been dropping and are now worth only \$600m, of which only \$180m is readily available.

The repercussions on the domestic economy have been considerable. The working currency to the maximum, the government has severely cut back on imports. This has created a serious shortage of raw materials and essential components for Argentinian industry, led to a fall in industrial production, and a consequent shortage of investment capital and resulted in considerable unemployment.

Added to this is the fact that Argentina's capacity for earning foreign currency has diminished substantially with the unprecedented fall in beef exports, which are down to about one quarter of their value two years ago.

One way out of the crisis, as the last minister of the economy admitted, would be to negotiate a stand-by loan from the International Monetary Fund.

At the end of May, Sr. Celestino Rodríguez was appointed Minister of the Economy and started to put into effect an economic policy that even IMF officials could not fault.

He devalued the peso by about 100 per cent. To put an end to the artificial and economically damaging boom in consumer spending, he removed the control over prices that the government had exercised since May 1973, in order to let the prices of all but a few basic items find their own market level.

Perhaps most unpopular of all was Sr. Rodríguez's determination to hold wage increases to a ceiling of 40 per cent, although inflation had reached 75 per cent in the first five months of the year alone.

These measures and the subsequent rocketing increase in the cost of living provoked militant strikes all over the country, with industrial activity paralysed. President Isabel Perón was forced to authorize wage increases of up to 135 per cent. A few days later, after devaluing the peso again by 16 per cent, Sr. Rodríguez went too.

Señor Cafiero's predecessor as Minister of the Economy, Señor Pedro Bonanni, did not announce any new plan for the country's "economic salvation" during his first weeks of office. The steps he took were merely essential, pragmatic measures, such as the freeing of exports of cotton, wool, leather and some manufactured articles and the banning of imports of about 100 products, ranging from zinc to ski equipment.

And with much greater political perspicacity than Señor

Rodrigo, he was consulting the country's most powerful groups.

During this period, the country's economic and social situation deteriorated. Inflation reached 35 per cent in July, making a total of 133 per cent for the first seven months of the year.

With their slender resources, companies have chosen to pay their workers wages rather than government taxes. It is estimated that some two million workers did not receive their wages at the end of July simply because the companies did not have the cash available.

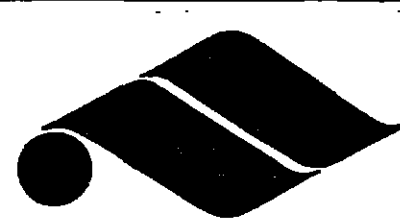
Furthermore, about 250,000 workers lost their jobs in the last fortnight of July, and many small and medium-sized firms have gone bankrupt.

On August 8, Bonanni finally announced some important economic measures, based on the plan that the CGT had presented to him. A state of economic emergency has been decreed for 90 days. Companies will not be allowed to dismiss workers nor to reduce the length of the working day. Prices of essential goods were also frozen. There will be a large increase in the number

of loans available to the small and medium-sized companies.

Time will tell whether the concessions that the Government, under the new economic minister's influence, is prepared to make are sufficient to diminish worker discontent and, secondly, whether the Government has the economic strength to push ahead with its own solutions, in fact of growing disapproval from powerful groups abroad.

**Sue Branford**



## Carrington Virella Ltd

### INTERIM STATEMENT

The Directors of Carrington Virella Limited announce the following unaudited results for the Group for the six months to 30th June, 1975:-

	1975	1974
	£'000	£'000
Sales to External Customers	113,134	98,504
Trading Profit:- U.K. Companies	4,250	4,969
Overseas Companies	(278)	1,923
Profit before Depreciation	7,774	9,745
Depreciation	(3,358)	(2,850)
Profit after Depreciation	4,416	6,895
Investment Income	42	18
Interest Payable	(2,621)	(2,404)
Profit before Taxation	1,837	4,509
Taxation	(823)	(2,168)
Profit after Taxation	1,014	2,343
Interest of Minorities	86	(136)
Preference Dividend	(25)	(256)
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	854	1,951
Net Cost of Ordinary Dividend after adjusting for ACT 35% (1974 33%)	682	703

1. During the period the Directors continued their strict programme of control of working capital. Due to de-stocking in the retail trade, short time working was experienced in most areas of the U.K. business during the first three months causing loss of profits of around £1.0m. The second quarter showed an improved trading position although pressure on margins continued.

The overseas companies, with the exception of the South African operation, showed losses for the first three months. There was some improvement in all areas in the second quarter.

Although external sales increased by 9% compared with the second half of 1974, working capital (stocks and debtors less creditors) showed a reduction of £1.4m from the year end. Capital expenditure during the period was £5.3m.

2. External sales were 15% ahead of the same period in 1974. The U.K. companies produced a trading profit of £4.3m compared with £5.0m for the first half of 1974. The overseas companies, however, showed a trading loss of £0.3m compared with a profit of £1.8m. Overall, pre-tax profits showed a reduction of 59%.

3. The economic climate in this country, particularly the future level of retail sales, gives cause for concern, but the U.K.

companies expect to maintain their position in the market. The outlook for the overseas companies in the second half is more encouraging.

4. In accordance with Group accounting policies, credit has been taken in the half year for net exchange profits. The actual figure for the half year was a profit of £323,000, but due to uncertainty as to the future value of sterling of £150,000 has been taken into account.

5. Dividends paid and payable on the Preference Shares are:-

	1975	1974
4.55% on 6% Cumulative Preference Shares	255	255
5.50% on 8% Cumulative Preference Shares	258	258
	513	513

6. The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.4875p per share on the Ordinary Share Capital of the Company, which, after adjusting for the related tax credit, is at the same rate as in 1974. In previous years the interim dividend has been paid in November, but in order to minimise the amount of irrecoverable ACT, the Directors have decided to pay the interim dividend on 1st January, 1976.







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